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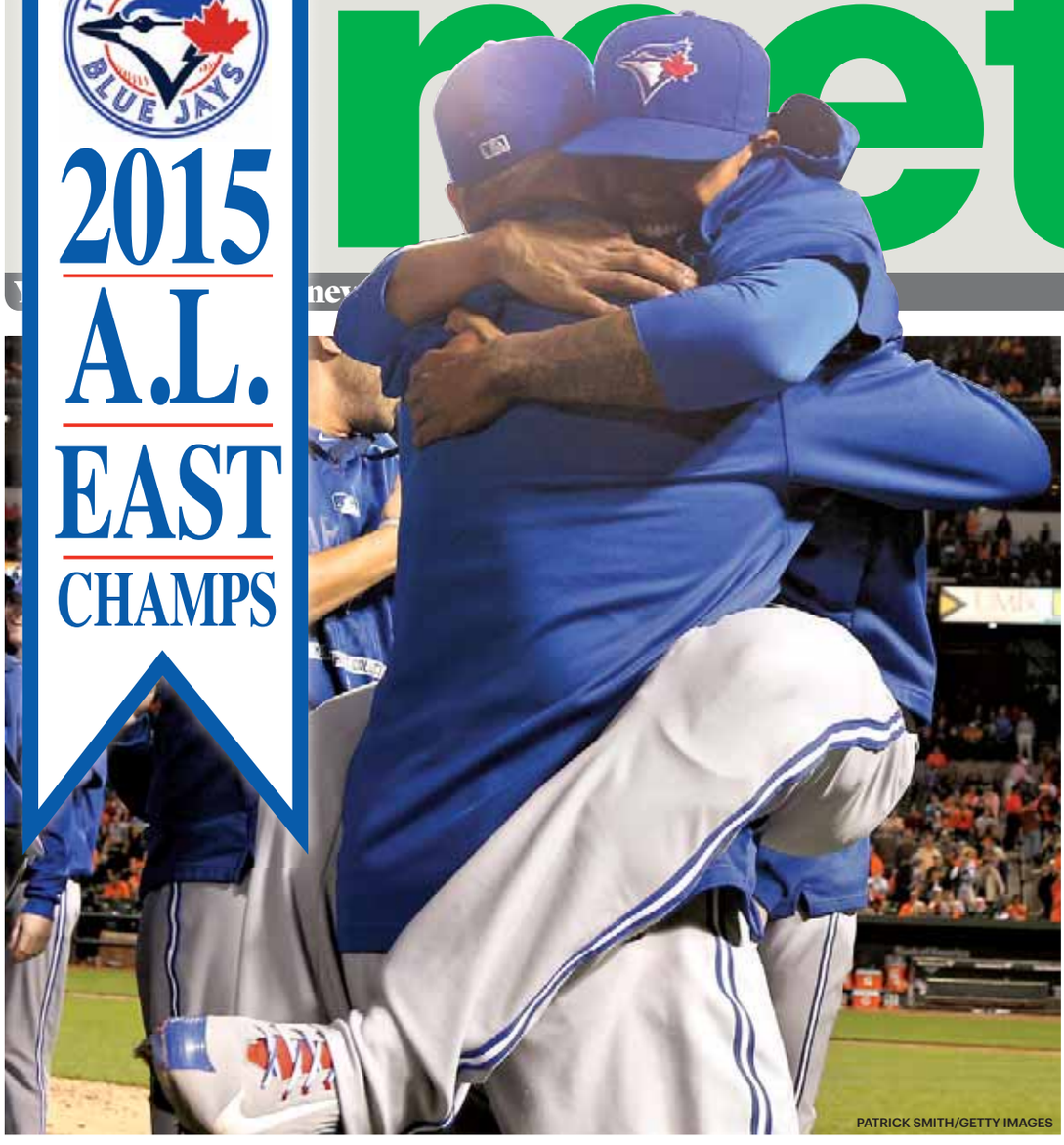
TORONTO BLUE JAYS

2015 A.L. EAST CHAMPS



PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015 7:26 p.m.

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OCT. 18, 2015 – DEC. 10, 2015 DEC. 24, 2015 – MAY 5, 2016	OCT. 18, 2015 – DEC. 10, 2015 DEC. 24, 2015 – MAY 5, 2016	OCT. 18, 2015 – DEC. 9, 2015 DEC. 27, 2015 – MAY 4, 2016	NOV. 1, 2015 – DEC. 10, 2015 MAR. 4, 2016 – APR. 28, 2016	NOV. 1, 2015 – DEC. 10, 2015 MAR. 27, 2016 – APR. 28, 2016	NOV. 3, 2015 – DEC. 9, 2015 DEC. 27, 2015 – MAY 4, 2016

Asia-Pacific

SYDNEY, AU	SHANGHAI	BEIJING	SEOUL	DELHI	TOKYO-HANEDA
$1985	$1135	$933	$1186	$1199	$962
NOV. 2, 2015 – NOV. 30, 2015 FEB. 1, 2016 – APR. 5 , 2016	OCT. 24, 2015 – DEC. 4, 2015	OCT. 22, 2015 – NOV. 30, 2015	OCT. 20, 2015 – DEC. 9, 2015 JAN. 1, 2016 – MAY 31, 2016	NOV. 1, 2015 – DEC. 10, 2015 DEC. 24, 2015 – MAY 5, 2016	NOV. 11, 2015 – DEC. 10, 2015 DEC. 25, 2015 – MAR. 10, 2016

Latin America

SÃO PAULO	RIO DE JANEIRO	SANTIAGO	BOGOTA	LIMA	PANAMA
$664	$664	$1051	$760	$826	$675
OCT. 5, 2015 – DEC. 16, 2015	OCT. 5, 2015 – DEC. 16, 2015	OCT. 8, 2015 – DEC. 10, 2015	OCT. 1, 2015 – NOV. 30, 2015 JAN. 17, 2016 – APR. 30, 2016	OCT. 1, 2015 – DEC. 2 2015 DEC. 30, 2015 – APR. 30, 2016	OCT. 8, 2015 – DEC. 10, 2015 DEC. 29, 2015 – FEB. 26, 2016

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‘Dream come true’ in the ball park

BLUE JAYS

Decked-out fans celebrate long-awaited division title

Steven Goetz
Metro | Toronto

It’s 4:30 at Real Sports Bar & Grill in downtown Toronto. The game is already underway on the bar’s jumbo screen, and a group of fans decked out in Jays gear are getting rowdy.

I ask them if they got off work early for the game. They tell me yes, but won’t say from where or give me their last names.

Josh, 33, says he remembers watching the 1992 and 1993 World Series; if the Jays can win the division title and make that deep October run, it will be a “dream come true.”

As the Jays score the first run off a Russell Martin double, the group erupts, swinging towels in the air, while a television crew swarms in to record their reaction — a pattern that will repeat itself all night as the Jays post 15 runs before its all over.

Basil Luceno, 25, an IT worker, sits at the bar. His memories of the Jays were formed during the 22-year playoff drought. He stays until he is sure the Jays’ lead is insurmountable.

Elated supporters cheer — and pound back a few beers — at Real Sports Bar & Grill in downtown Toronto after the Blue Jays secured their first division title since 1993. STEVEN GOETZ/FOR METRO

In a booth in the back, social worker Katie Stadelman and nurse Katie Baldwin are overjoyed.

“I believe in the boys of summer as we all come together ... hashtag,” Stadelman says, in a fit of laughter. The U.K. expat has seen the Jays play over 100 times since moving to Toronto.

Baldwin, who hits the road every year to see the team play, says she feels like part of the team — something she doesn’t get from the Maple Leafs.

> **“I never thought it would come. Our family is finally being rewarded.”**
> Jays fan Shaady Tadros

A few booths down, Shaady Tadros, 31, from Mississauga — self-described member of the Jays’ nation — remembers the old glories, but tonight’s runaway win is still “surreal.”

“I never thought it would come,” Tadros said. “Our family is finally being rewarded.”

Our conversation is cut short as pitcher LaTroy Hawkins throws the last out on the Jays’ 15-2 win.

As the game comes to a close, across the room, celebratory shots are ordered. Chris Muise points to Jays ace Marcus Stroman drinking a Gatorade on the television screen: “They should be having a beer.”

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Jays' season a boon for city, fans

OPINION

Team can reignite T.O's sense of civic pride, identity

Matt Elliott
For Metro

With the division clinched and the playoffs coming, the Toronto Blue Jays have obviously done a whole lot of good.

They've reignited Toronto's interest in baseball. They've been a boon to basically any business with beer. And they've turned the Rogers Centre into an awesome place to be with every home game. But the significance of this team and their success doesn't end there.

Because whether you're a fair-weather fan, a long-suffering diehard or someone who barely cares about the finer points of sportsball, an end to the Blue Jays' 22-year streak of futile baseball matters.

I know, I know. I, too, have long been hesitant to attach much importance to muscly millionaires playing games, but my thinking has changed in recent years. I have seen first-hand that local success in sports can and does mean an increased level of civic pride.

And Toronto is a city in need of more civic pride.

Consider our history. Since the Jays last saw real success with World Series wins in 1992 and 1993, the city has been dealing with something of an extended hangover following a steep mid-'90s downturn.

The numbers tell the story. Between 1989 and 1996, Toronto shed almost 200,000 net jobs, while real estate tanked, with the average price of a home dropping by 38 per cent.

At the same time, the TTC had to deal with a death spiral of falling ridership and service cuts. A brand new subway tunnel was filled in with dirt.

And ambitious plans for highrise buildings were abandoned mid-construction, left as ugly stumps.

Things got better, of course, but it's been a slow climb back, with some notable setbacks. Toronto only surpassed the job numbers from the 1989 peak two years ago. And though it's brought severe challenges related to affordability, the condo boom has brought new people and new energy.

Still, a feeling of cynicism stubbornly persists.

It's a cynicism that asks, "Can Toronto really be a great city? Is it even worth trying?"

Sports can help cut through that. The NBA's Toronto Raptors proved it over the last two seasons, drawing thousands to stand outside the Air Canada Centre until the bitter end.

And the Jays are proving it now.

What the players do on the field is only part of the equation. The other part is how the city has responded. That part is represented by the "Let's go Blue Jays" chants that spontaneously ring out while walking down the ramps at Rogers Centre. It's represented by the way entire bars erupt with every home run. It's represented by noise. By identity.

Sure, it's only a game.

Economic growth and smart city building definitely shouldn't hinge on winning the World Series. But we also shouldn't write off the importance of civic pride — of having a populace ready to believe their city can do great things.

Toronto is a city long in search of things we can collectively be proud of. It's worth celebrating that now that — again — we have the Blue Jays.

Blue Jays' Edwin Encarnacion, centre, celebrates with teammate Justin Smoak after Smoak drove him in on a home run against the Baltimore Orioles Wednesday. PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP PHOTO

"Can Toronto really be a great city? Is it even worth trying?

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CAMARADERIE

A team that naps together ...

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

The Jays josh around in the dugout and share inside jokes on social media.

Pitcher David Price bought his whole team matching blue bathrobes and they proudly wore them on camera. They kick around a soccer ball for fun and they attended an NFL game together. They also allegedly napped together between the two games of a doubleheader.

There appears to be camaraderie on this team — and it may have played a big role in helping the Jays clinch the American League East title.

"The way they get along — the camaraderie that they display, the friendship that they have in the dugout and closeness away from the game — that contributes to their on-field ability," said Paul Dennis, professor of sport psychology at the University of Toronto.

The Jays' team chemistry — or as sports psychologists call it, "social cohesion" — has been a joy for fans to watch all season.

Dennis said a great display of team "cohesion" came after Josh Donaldson hit a walk-off home run on Sunday. His teammates tore off his jersey, dumping popcorn and ice water over his head.

What was important about that, to Dennis, was that fans stood, cheered and waved white towels instead of leaving the game as soon as it ended.

"Those emotions are contagious. The players appreciate that and it's going to take them a long way into the playoffs," he said.

Blue Jays' Josh Donaldson, right, celebrates with teammate Ben Revere after Wednesday's first game. Toronto won 15-2 to clinch the American League East. PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP PHOTO

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Cabbies sitting in council chambers raise their hands to support a point of order as councillors discuss the introduction of a bylaw to regulate Uber, Wednesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Councillors vote to regulate Uber

CITY HALL

Company asked to stop operating while rules developed

The city will continue trying to equalize old and new as council took another step towards regulating the taxi industry to better include Uber.

But while council voted decidedly — 32-12 — on Thursday to back Mayor John Tory's push to create a "level playing field," the biggest fight is still to come.

The vast majority of councillors voted that new, technology-based services like Uber will now be covered under city bylaws, which requires them to apply as a taxi and limousine brokerage and pay an annual fee. But of more significance is that those definitions dictate Uber is now permitted to connect their users only with municipally licensed cabs.

Currently, the California-based company — which allows passengers to hail a car with an app on their phone — connects users to licensed cabs but also, through the UberX service, to unlicensed drivers using their own cars for a cheaper fare.

While Tory and councillors attempt to further amend the rules, with a report from staff on how they might do that now expected back this spring, Uber was asked by a vote of council to stop operating in the interim.

But immediately following the vote, Uber Canada's general manager Ian Black said they have no intention of complying with that request.

"I think Uber has a responsibility to the 400,000 riders who rely on us for transportation as well as the 16,000 drivers who rely on us for their income, so Uber intends to continue operating in the city of Toronto," Black said.

32-12

Results of voting on a motion to ask city staff to develop rules on Uber.

Ahead of the vote Thursday, Tory reiterated that Uber has been operating outside the city's current rules — a legal loophole that a Superior Court judge acknowledged earlier this year.

But Tory argued it was not "practical" to try to ban Uber, a service that has grown in popularity in Toronto and around the world.

A staff proposal designed to help conventional cabs compete with Uber, reducing the starting cost of a cab fare from $4.25 to $3.25, was also passed by council on Thursday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WEAPONS

Raids net guns, ammunition

A man and woman are collectively facing 20 firearm-related charges after the Toronto police Gun and Gang Task Force seized guns, ammunition and drugs after executing search warrants in Toronto and Brampton.

The man and woman were arrested around 5 p.m. Tuesday. After executing search warrants at addresses in Brampton and Toronto, police allegedly seized a .45 calibre automatic Thompson sub-machine gun, a 9mm Cobray Mac 11 sub-machine gun, a sawed-off 12 gauge shotgun, a ballistic vest, numerous rounds of ammunition of various types, including .45 calibre, 9mm, .380 auto, .357 mag, .38 calibre, 12 gauge and 7.65, and a quantity of powdered cocaine, crack cocaine and marijuana.

Leslie Prince, 38, of Toronto, and Immorie Joris, 27, of Brampton, have both been charged with unauthorized possession of a firearm, possession of a loaded firearm, possession of a firearm knowing its possession is unauthorized, possession of a firearm obtained by the commission of an offence, careless storage of a firearm, two counts of careless storage of ammunition and three counts of possession of a prohibited device.

Both were scheduled to appear in court Wednesday morning.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Developer gives students a break

RESIDENCES

Refunds on the way for many forced to live in hotels

Steven Goetz
Metro | Toronto

It's a day late and a buck short for some, but the developer of a private student residence is trying to make good with students forced to spend weeks in hotels because their rooms weren't ready.

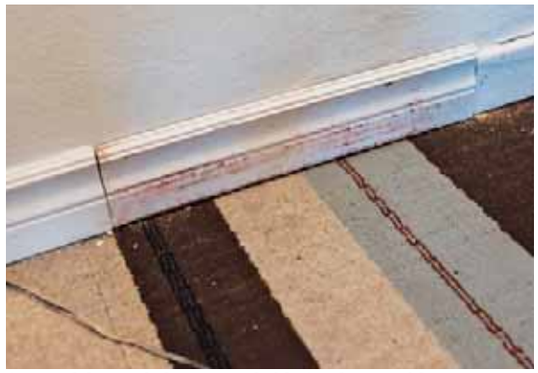
David Lehberg, president of Knightstone Capital Management, the developer, told Metro all students would receive credit equal to one monthly instalment toward their housing and meal charges.

"The break we are giving is substantial," Lehberg said. "And we spent a heck of a lot of money making up for the missed move-in date paying for hotels, shuttles and meals."

For Arslan Khawaja, a Ryerson economics major, the offer is too little, too late. The international student moved out Tuesday after insisting the company refund his money.

"I don't trust them at all," Khawaja told Metro. "It is a big-ass building. How could they not have known it wouldn't be ready?"

Khawaja said he asked the building's management three times if everything would be ready in time for classes and was told repeatedly the company was just waiting on city officials to issue the necessary permits.



Some of the work done at Parkside Student Residence, as seen by students when they moved in. STEVEN GOETZ/METRO

> **"How could they not have known it wouldn't be ready?**
> Arslan Khawaja

"When we moved in it was really terrible, it was an actual construction site," Khawaja said. "No water, nothing."

"If they were real with me and told me the situation without any bull----, I would have respected that," he said. "But they are just salesmen."

Lehberg said the company was responding to all concerns and was dealing with the "four or five" who have asked to terminate their leases.

While the company plans to offer rooms on floors 14 to 22 at a lower price point than other rooms in the building starting next year, there is no plan to offer further compensation to students currently occupying those rooms, Lehberg said.

It is those rooms that have generated the most complaints over what looks like rushed renovations.

Some students have told Metro they are in the process of filing complaints with the Landlord and Tenant Board because the rooms don't live up to what they were promised.

"We stand by the building," Lehberg said. "We are very proud of the space we created."

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Youth getting squeezed as population grows up

DEMOGRAPHICS

Analysts say policies reflect voting patterns

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

As Canada gets older and greyer, experts say the country's youth are being left behind by a political system that caters to the elderly.

For the first time in Canada's history, seniors outnumber children, according to data released this week by Statistics Canada. As of July 1, 16 per cent of Canadians were younger than 15, while 16.1 per cent were 65 or older.

If the trend continues, StatsCan projections suggest nearly a third of the population will be over the age of 60 by 2050.

"There will be more pensions needed, more health care expenditures and more Old Age Security spending needed," said Doug Norris, chief demographer at Environics Analytics.

"It will be important to maintain a balance for the services that are important for young families.

"They can't be left behind at the expense of funding that older population."

Paul Kershaw, a public health professor at the University of British Columbia and founder of the Generation Squeeze project, said the federal and provincial governments already spend three times more on elderly Canadians than younger ones. And unless there's a major policy shift, that disparity will grow as Canada's population ages, he said.

Kershaw listed off ways for the government to funnel more money to youth, including ending oil and gas subsidies, reducing old age benefits for wealthy baby boomers and taxing real estate wealth.

"Housing has gone up 100 per cent compared to a generation ago, and it's created wealth for one demographic," he said.

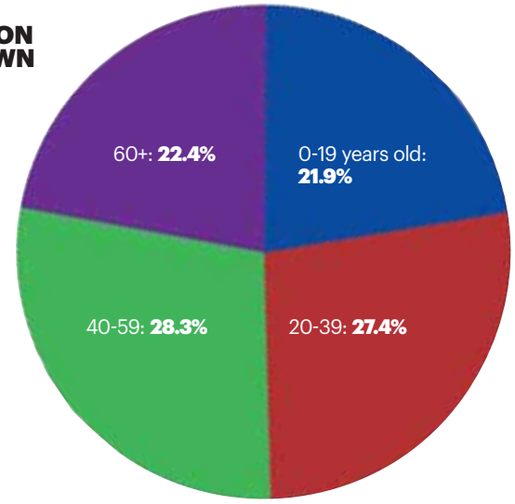
"That trend doesn't reflect hard work or smart decisions, it just reflects timing."

However, both Kershaw and Norris said those changes won't happen unless young people show up at the ballot box.

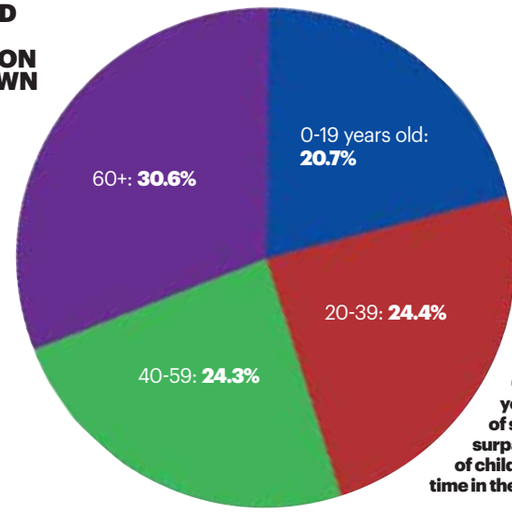
"Politics isn't broken," said Kershaw. "It responds to those who show up ... and seniors are using their political clout more effectively."

"We risk having our country's political system focus disproportionately on the needs of an aging population.
Paul Kershaw

2015 POPULATION BREAKDOWN



PROJECTED 2050 POPULATION BREAKDOWN



Based on StatsCan projections, more than 30% of Canada's population will be over the age of 60 by 2050. This year, the number of seniors in Canada surpassed the number of children for the first time in the country's history.

The nameplate and picture.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MARKHAM

Politician faces heat for mask mockery

It's the kind of prank that would have gotten you a few laughs — if you were in high school.

But in the halls of Markham's municipal council, pasting a picture of Frankenstein on the nameplate of a rival councillor has ex-councillor Howard Shore facing a public reprimand from his former colleagues and a slap on the wrist from the city's integrity commissioner.

"Mr. Shore was not acting within the standards of professionalism the City of Markham expects of its councillors," said integrity commissioner Ben Drody, in his report looking into the complaint filed by Coun. Valerie Burke.

Drody found Shore "failed to be respectful of another member, and did not conduct himself with the appropriate decorum."

Shore, who lost in the 2014 municipal election to Burke, did not respond to a request for comment. The two had been forced into a bitter race last year, after the two Thornhill wards they previously represented merged into one.

But Burke says she was shocked when she drove into her parking spot on Dec. 1, 2014, the day of the inauguration, and found a Frankenstein mask propped up against her name plate.

Security footage showed Shore walking into Burke's parking spot at 12:45 a.m. the night before with something in his hand, and walking out empty-handed.

His term ended at midnight.

Burke then filed a complaint with the integrity commissioner, and took the matter to police.

Shore told the integrity commissioner he was clearing out his office when he noticed the mask sitting on the top of one the boxes and didn't recognize it as his own. He thought because Burke had previously occupied the office, it could belong to her — and so left it in her parking spot.

"I intended no offence to Councillor Burke," Shore said.

Burke says she finds that hard to believe. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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FEDERAL FUNDING

Conservatives neglecting to spend on youth, says expert

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A researcher who studies the financial squeeze faced by young Canadians isn't too impressed with what Stephen Harper is offering as a fix.

When asked about what his government is doing to help young people, Harper told Metro on Tuesday that the key is building the strong economy his low-tax, balanced-budget plan is designed to achieve.

But, Paul Kershaw, a University of British Columbia professor and head of Generation Squeeze, said the Harper government's tax cuts — including the pension tax credit, the old age tax credit and even the age-neutral policy on tax free savings accounts — have mostly prioritized older Canadians.

Things like the Conservatives' Universal Childcare Benefit do benefit younger people but are outweighed by spending on seniors, said Kershaw, whose group lobbies for youth.

Kershaw's research has found Canadian governments, all levels combined, spend an average of $33,000 each on people older than 65 and only $12,000 each on those younger than 45.

He would like to see the next federal government break spending down by age so everyone can have a debate about generational equality in Canada.

Metrolinx releases bridge documents

TRANSPORTATION

Junction residents prefer tunnel as alternative

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

A dispute over a planned rail bridge in Toronto's Junction Triangle kept chugging along Wednesday, as Metrolinx released long-awaited planning documents related to the project.

Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca had promised to make the documents public in July, but when they failed to materialize, residents accused the province and Metrolinx of withholding information.

"We're very pleased the minister kept his word and released the documents. We're going to have a good look at them and see what they reveal," said Kevin Putnam, head of the citizen-led Junction Triangle Rail Committee.

Metrolinx wants to build a 1.6-kilometre elevated track stretching from Bloor Street to Davenport Road. The agency says the elevation would reduce delays and increase capacity along the Barrie GO line.

The plan has raised the ire of residents, some of whom want Metrolinx to build a tunnel instead.

According to Metrolinx's report, sending the bridge underground — even into a shallow trench — would be a lengthy and costly affair. The agency claims building the tunnel would take five to six years and come with a price tag of $626 million.

In contrast, the bridge would cost $140 million and be completed in about two years.

A planned rail bridge will run atop this crossing on Wallace Avenue in Toronto's Junction neighbourhood. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

TAX

Province tells used car buyers to pay up

The Ontario government is hunting down motorists who purchased used vehicles in the spring and didn't pay enough tax — ranging from $100 to $500 — through no fault of their own.

The government says because of a computer error by CarProof, some 6,500 motorists who purchased used vehicles between May 1 and 27 were charged less retail sales tax than actually owed, totalling $2.4 million. CarProof is a private company that provides a history on used vehicles and assigns values to them.

"In order to ensure fairness for all, the unpaid taxes are being collected," Finance Minister Charles Sousa said in an email statement to Torstar Wednesday.

CarProof could not be reached for comment.

"I acknowledge and regret that an isolated situation has unfortunately occurred due to a computer formatting error with third-party data and has resulted in certain people being required to pay an outstanding balance of RST owing on their recent used car purchases," Sousa stated.

"I want to reiterate that this is an isolated incident and the Ministry has taken appropriate steps to ensure that this does not happen again."

Sousa's office explained the glitch was caused by formatting issues "which caused the system to generate the incorrect value for the sold used cars when the file was uploaded into government systems."

Meanwhile the government, the finance and transportation ministries and ServiceOntario are sending out assessment notices advising the vehicles purchasers they owe more taxes.

They are being asked to pay up by mailing a cheque or money order to the Ministry of Finance or in-person at one of the 66 ServiceOntario retail offices that accept such payments.

Detailed information can be found at www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/contact/visit_soc.html

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$2.4M

Due to a computer error, 6,500 motorists who purchased used vehicles owe an outstanding total of $2.4 million in sales tax.

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45	$16	$12	$19	$13	$33	$22
50	$16	$13	$29	$20	$52	$36
65	$61	$40	$146	$94	$280	$183

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RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING COUNCIL

Caring Canadians

Twin activists Maryam and Nivaal Rehman, 14, from Scarborough, turned family trips to Pakistan into a recurring chance to visit schools in a poor village and inspire children to pursue education and careers. Wednesday evening, they nabbed the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. Here's what they had to say.

Before you started visiting Pakistan you were involved in food and toy drives and funding for international flood relief supplies. How did you catch the activism bug?

Maryam: This all started when at a very young age, in Grade 3, we got involved with Free The Children and we collected change (for the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital in Pakistan and the Imran Khan Foundation). That same year, during vacation, we visited the girls' government school in Pakistan for the first time. We went again in 2012 and then in 2015.

What happened when you got to Pakistan on your first trip in 2010?

Maryam: There are people in Pakistan who live in tents and in rags. We just went outside and we met them. We went to places no one was willing to go to and speak to people no one was willing to talk to.

Nivaal: We looked through their workbooks and found that they learn English and Urdu, but they never learn math. Those kids, when I told them about numbers, they said, "Oh cool. We want to learn that." We taught them about numbers.

M: We taught them the basics of geography — where they are in the world and where they can go. It opens up opportunities because I doubt they know that there is a whole world out there that they can explore and expand their horizons. We tell them that there are more opportunities out there than working in people's houses or doing servant jobs.

Nivaal and Maryam Rehman are students at L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What was the reaction like from students?

N: When we went for the first time in 2010 there was one of the girls, Sania. She said, 'I am going to quit school,' but when we went back three years later we talked to her again and we told her that she should continue.

She actually went to high school.

It's a really big deal for us because we impacted her.

Tell me about the call you got notifying you that your teachers had nominated you for the Governor General's Caring Canadian award.

M: We just came home from school. We were so happy because it was such a surprise. It was never our intention to come that far and the results were wonderful. We not only helped those children, but we got recognized.

My mom was on the phone and Nivaal and I were hugging each other and screaming. My mom was in shock. Her eyes were wide open. She was a bit calmer than us, but we were going crazy.

What's next for you both? Are you returning to Pakistan again this summer?

M: Last time (we were in Pakistan) I was making a documentary, but just as I was putting it together, the footage got deleted, but my parents said, "It's OK, we will take you again and we will make sure it gets saved this time properly."

N: I am writing a book based on Pakistan and philosophy. I have been writing it for a year now. It's about a girl who tells a story based on her life, but it is an allegorical version of her life that is all about stereotypes and I put into it a lot of my experiences in Pakistan and my feelings about that country. I am finishing up editing it, but I hope to find a publisher by the end of this year.

M: We want to see all the world's children that are deprived of education achieve an education. It should be a basic human right. It should be a requirement that everyone gets an education. We want to spread the message and this initiative globally and visit other countries to help the children there, as well.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BERLIN WALL

Torontonians connecting to Germany

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Call it Toronto meets Berlin. Virtually, at least.

As Germany prepares to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Berlin Wall's fall on Saturday, a local project is connecting kids with their counterparts in the European nation.

Living Together, organized by the Consulate General of Germany in Toronto, will allow students in Grades 6 and 7 to exchange ideas on topics such as music, economics, food, language and art.

The goal is to foster an understanding of multiculturalism and diversity by sharing experiences from both sides of the Atlantic, said spokeswoman Tanja Matuszis.

"This is a playful exercise on the topic of integration and living together," she said.

> **Germans still come to Canada to learn about success stories.**
> Tanja Matuszis

The project was modelled on an existing initiative in Germany called Site Views, where artists build walls and students try to communicate to each other from both sides. It's meant to show how things have changed since the country's east and west were unified.

With the refugee crisis unfolding in Europe, Germany is being confronted with challenges of accommodating different cultures. Having young kids learn how it can be done is a good start, Matuszis said.

The project runs until November.

Berliners sing and dance on top of the Berlin Wall to celebrate one day after the opening of East-West German borders in 1989. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McDonald's server Ellaine Pacay delivers customized hamburgers to the table for customers who order at the build-your-own burger kiosks inside the restaurant. McDonald's unveiled its new concept restaurant at St. Clair Avenue and Victoria Park Wednesday. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Serving up a new brand

MCDONALD'S

Self-service kiosks, table service options to debut by 2017

McDonald's Canada CEO John Betts says lining up to pay for the same old burger will soon be a thing of the past.

The company is overhauling the way it does business, adding self-service kiosks and bringing table service and dedicated wait staff to its restaurants.

"We are kicking off a bold plan to transform what guests experience when they visit McDonald's restaurants across Canada," says Betts. "We want our guests to walk in and be wowed by an experience that's modern and personalized, but still the McDonald's they know and love."

The new kiosks will allow customers to personalize their orders as McDonald's adds a premium burger to the menu with nearly 30 different options including five types of cheese, 12 toppings, two buns, a lettuce wrap and nine sauces.

The company says the plan will include the creation of 15,000 new jobs across the country as it adds employees who will greet customers and guide them through the ordering process.

Betts says most of the 1,400 McDonald's restaurants in Canada will be changed to the new ordering format by 2017.

The company said it is also continuing its mission to provide food that tastes good, and to use quality ingredients, many of which are sourced from Canadian suppliers. Future plans for the restaurant chain will also aim to advance McDonald's sustainability and Canadian sourcing initiatives.

"We always listen to our guests, and this ambitious plan is exactly what they've asked us to do," said Betts. "We're innovating and evolving for the future, and we're excited to bring our guests along on this journey with us."

METRO / WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Danforth restaurant raffle temporarily on hold

A restaurateur raffling off her Danforth Avenue eatery says the contest is on hold until she can find another site to host her contest.

Ruthie Cummings, 46, says that Eventbrite, a popular online event organizer, will no longer allow her to use its site to raffle off her German-themed restaurant Das Gasthaus. The raffle conflicts with Eventbrite's regulations.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Zoo's giant panda pregnant — with twins

One of the Toronto Zoo's giant pandas is pregnant — with twins.

Zoo staff and breeding experts observed two separate, fetal heartbeats in ultrasounds taken in the last week of Er Shun, a female giant panda on loan from China.

The next three to four weeks are critical, the zoo said in a statement, and "staff are cautiously hopeful for healthy births within this time frame."

Toronto spokeswoman Jennifer Tracey said support from people in Toronto and colleagues from other zoos around the world has been overwhelming.

"It's an incredible accomplishment," she said. "It's great news for our reproductive program and for the endangered panda species."

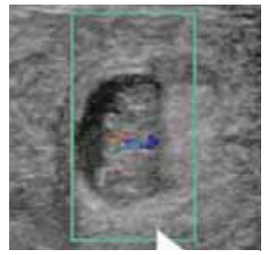
Er Shun was artificially inseminated last May. Giant pandas have a gestation period that can last anywhere from 87 to 186 days from the date of insemination, the zoo explained.

The first heartbeat was observed in an ultrasound on Sept. 25 and a second panda fetus was seen on Sept. 29.

Tracey said people don't comprehend the complexities involved in this type of pregnancy.

"There are so few facilities that house pandas in the first place, and even fewer with reproductive programs," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



An ultrasound of the panda twins. CONTRIBUTED

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PEEL REGION

Schools suspend breakfast program

Peel elementary schools are cancelling breakfast programs — affecting thousands of children — with the board blaming the work-to-rule by support staff and elementary teachers.

Education Minister Liz Sandals was upset the labour dispute has gotten so bad and called the situation "absolutely appalling."

"There's just no world in which you can say, 'We're not disrupting student learning,' if you disrupt the breakfast club, because we know there's scads of research that shows that kids can't learn on empty stomachs," she told reporters Wednesday.

In Toronto, senior board staff at the public board are monitoring schools and say breakfast programs will continue for now, but not pizza lunches which are often used as fundraisers.

CUPE workers ramped up their job action this week, with caretakers refusing to clean hallways, entrances or do any yard upkeep. Elementary teachers, too, have been directed not to collect money.

In response, the Peel board has told principals to focus on classroom learning and keeping schools safe and open.

"We believe we have reached a point where we can't ask principals to do any more, and it's not reasonable to expect that it will be business as usual," Pontes said in a telephone interview.

He acknowledged "there will be an impact in that some kids may be getting hungry by the middle of the day. There might be local solutions where someone might put out energy bars that kids can help themselves to; I suspect there will be local solutions to help keep our neediest children supported."

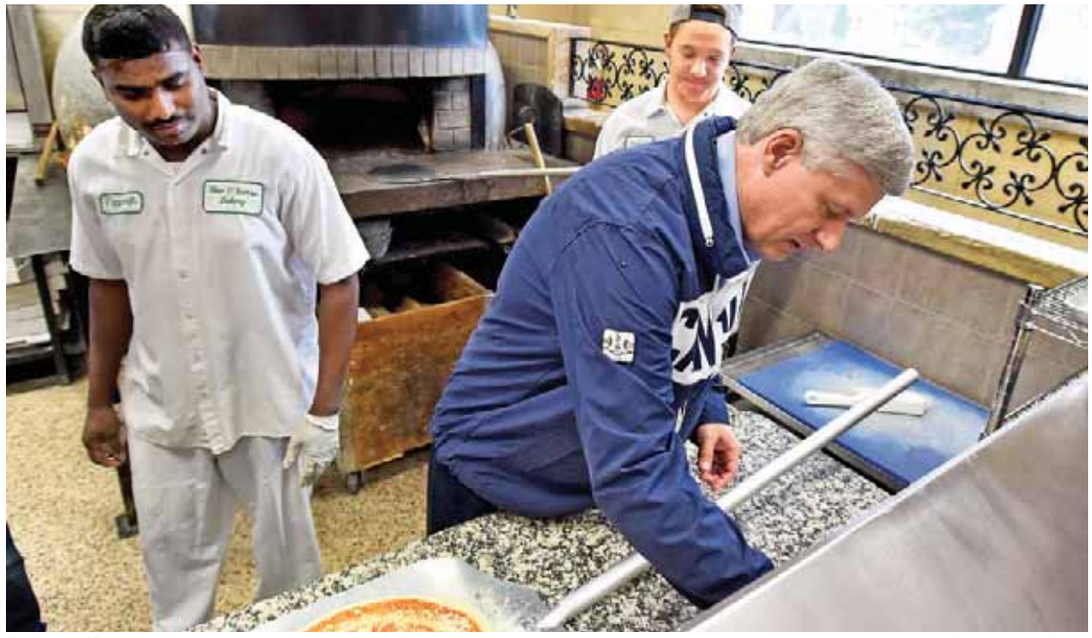
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Intellectuals give Harper earful of 'elite opinions'

ELECTION 2015

Critics say the PM's appeal to plain folks not wise or honest

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto



Stephen Harper's campaign for re-election has been filled with stops at places frequented by the 'ordinary Canadians' he says guide his decisions. Here, he's pictured at a Vaughan bakery. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper talks about Canada's elite, he isn't talking about the wealthy — and that's a problem for some Metro readers and some "elites" alike.

In an interview Tuesday, Metro asked Harper how things have changed for Canadian "elites" over his decade in power.

He didn't directly answer the question but did speak about how he governs based on the views of "ordinary Canadians" instead of "elite opinions."

The examples of "elite opinions" he gave were people who believe Canada shouldn't bomb ISIL and shouldn't strip terrorists of their Canadian citizenship.

Several people took offence, saying Harper was classifying people based on their views, not their wealth — which is what most people think of when they use the word.

Jim, an Ottawa civil servant, wrote to Metro wondering if it's even possible for Harper to be in touch with "ordinary Canadians."

"We should ask him how, with his $334,000 annual salary, expense accounts, tax-paid sumptuous home, private staff and guard, chauffeur-driven limousine, government jet to fly him around the country, solid platinum pension, etc., he feels he is qualified to understand the values and problems of the average Canadian," Jim wrote.

Myer Siemiatycki, a political-science professor at Ryerson University, said Harper has good political reason not to define "elites" as the wealthiest Canadians.

"His is the government that has reduced taxes on the wealthy. It's brought about the sharpest increase in income inequality. The rich are definitely getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, and the middle class is slipping," Siemiatycki said.

> **His is the government that has reduced taxes on the wealthy.**
> Myer Siemiatycki

Not only do the country's well-to-do elites benefit from Harper's policies, many support his party with campaign contributions, said Siemiatycki.

"He's trying to portray himself as the voice of ordinary Canadians and someone who is suspect of the elites, but his record in office points in a different direction," he said.

Instead of criticizing wealthy elites, Harper criticizes intellectual elites — such as writers and professors.

"They are the people who are suspect in his eyes," Siemiatycki said.

That's a problem for Scott Findlay. A biologist with a long list of accomplishments, he too could be described as an intellectual "elite."

Findlay's a co-founder of Evidence for Democracy, a group that's protested Harper and advocates for government scientists and "evidence-based decision-making."

He accuses Harper of brushing off well-researched advice given to the government as nothing but "elite opinion." Instead, Findlay said, those are the people Harper should be listening to.

"If you're having open-heart surgery, do you want Joe the janitor or do you want a cardiac surgeon who's done 2,000 such procedures?" he asked. "Is that person elite? You're damn right she's elite."

Read the full interview with Stephen Harper at metronews.ca

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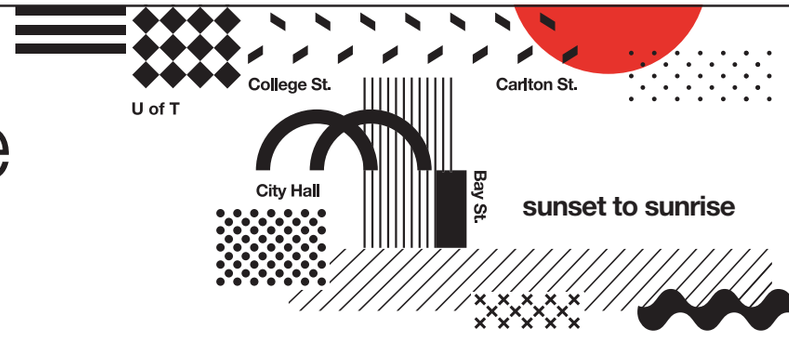

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READY TO ENGAGE

Metro's coast-to-coast daily election series connects young, urban Canadians to the issues they care about

VOTER PROFILE

Name: Bailey Reid **Age:** 30 **Riding:** Ottawa Vanier
Her issues: Violence against women, women in leadership roles

Wanted: Focus on women's issues

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
in Ottawa

One thing dominates Bailey Reid's politics: The inequality of the sexes.

"You can talk about representation in Parliament, you can talk about child care, you can talk about violence against women, but I think that it does need that deeper analysis to show these are all results of women not being equal in Canada," she says.

Reid called Stephen Harper "the most absent" from the discussion. Neither he nor his status of women minister participated in the recent leader event devoted to women's issues — which touched on child care, violence against women, and women in leadership roles.

While NDP's Thomas Mulcair and Liberal's Justin Trudeau participated, Reid found those leader's analyses missed that point. No leader has been identifying inequality as the root cause, nor underlining the ludicrousness of segregating key issues for half the voting public under the ill-fitting "women's issues" banner — with the exception of Elizabeth May.

"Part of me wants to vote Green because I'm sick of (Elizabeth May) being ignored," Reid says. The Green leader was barred from the debates on the economy and on foreign policy, and Reid seems incredulous that a feminist reading of economic policy was missing from the other leaders' comments.

"It would be nice to see a woman taken seriously, and it does feel very, pat pat on the head, 'That's cute Miss May, but you can't come.'"

But Reid won't be voting Green, because her local candidate doesn't have good odds.

The 30-year-old's riding, Ottawa Vanier, is staunchly Liberal, and likely to remain so. Reid says her natural political home has been the Liberal Party, so she's likely voting that way again on Oct. 19. But she admits to some waffling. She likes the NDP's strategies on violence against women and national child-care plans.

Justin Trudeau's opaque comments that misogyny is fuelled by "certain kinds of music" and absent fathers certainly didn't impress Reid. "I wish he had a really good gender adviser," she quips. But the Liberals' promise to bring gender equity to cabinet is promising, she says, and so too the promise of a missing and murdered indigenous women inquiry. Trudeau is clearly willing to talk about inequality and sexism, she adds.

And that's the least that Reid is hoping for in this election: A prime minister willing to start talking more about women.

Rosemary Westwood is travelling across the country talking to young voters. She'll be in Toronto on Thursday.

'Fastest-growing industry' ignored

Tech industry is accusing leaders of poor planning

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Federal leaders must show concrete plans on how technology will feature into their vision of the country, a local tech company has said.

Just days after founders of Lighthouse Labs wrote to Stephen Harper, Justin Trudeau and Thomas Mulcair expressing the tech community's disappointment over the lack of discussion on how to boost the country's economy through technology, Liberals responded swiftly.

Justin Trudeau announced Tuesday in Winnipeg a $900-million commitment to advance tech innovations and startup incubators.

"That's what we've been looking for from every leader," said Jeremy Shaki, co-founder of the web and mobile software development company. He described Trudeau's move as "phenomenal" but was quick to add sustainability is key.

"I'm not just asking for them to throw money everywhere, but specifically where does tech fit into their plans?" he said.

In the letter, the group had accused leaders of completely ignoring the technology industry in their discussions, and only focusing on short-term things "just to help them win certain votes, overlooking the fastest growing industry in North America."

Shaki remained critical of the leaders' commitment to transform the country's education sector by incorporating technology in the system.

"It's a shame. How are we voting on people when we have absolutely no idea how they'll be approaching these critical issues?" he said.

Groups in the tech industry have done "a phenomenal job" without much support from the government, and it's time leaders commit to promoting technological innovations, he said.

Lighthouse Labs believes most of tomorrow's job markets will require basic levels of web design and coding. The company has taken its trainings throughout the country, helping a total of its 300 graduates to land jobs with tech companies. Its HTML500 summer series have helped over 2,500 young Canadians learn basic skills in coding for free.

"Coding as a tool is so much like math," said Shaki, adding Canada should emulate nations like the U.K. and introduce coding classes in elementary and high schools, making it a mandatory subject.

"Even if you don't become a developer, knowing to code will help you find creative, logical and critical solutions."

There needs to be a top-down approach, or at least a conversation from the top about how to grow this industry, he said.

Company critical of commitment to transform the education sector by incorporating technology in the system. GETTY IMAGES

> **The technology industry has been completely ignored through all debates.**
> Jeremy Shaki

BY THE NUMBERS

Technology in Education

How other countries around the globe are schooling Canada on the future

</> England's new curriculum teaches the basics of coding as early as **5 years old**

</> Estonia is teaching **first graders** how to create their own computer games

The American "Hour of Code" effort says it has already persuaded **28 MILLION** people to give programming a try.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tories defend trade deal

CARETAKER CONVENTION

Pact ignores protocol that limits activities during election

The Conservatives are conducting negotiations toward a massive 12-country trade deal — that could well prove to be their campaign centrepiece — in secret in the middle of an election, the Liberals and NDP charged Wednesday.

As Justin Trudeau unveiled the Liberal health-care policy plank, one of the last remaining pieces of his party's platform, and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair promised to establish a parliamentary science officer to advise his would-be government, the Conservatives were answering awkward questions about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which could be announced, in some form, as early as Friday.

Joe Oliver, in a rare national campaign appearance, defended the government's right to conduct official business during the election period.

The finance minister rejected suggestions that the government's continued pursuit of the TPP is a violation of the so-called "caretaker convention," which is supposed to limit government activity during an election period.

"There is a protocol in place and we of course consult with the Privy Council on these issues," Oliver said.

Federal finance minister and Conservative candidate Joe Oliver in Toronto on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"When there's a matter of importance or urgency for the government to deal with in the national interest then it's appropriate for us to do that. And this is certainly one of those cases."

The convention also stipulates that governing parties are expected to consult opposition parties on matters that could end up tying the hands of future governments.

Trudeau flat out said he had "not been approached by anyone in government on the Trans-Pacific Partnership."

"One of the things that we've seen over the past years with this government is an approach that has been secretive, non-transparent, that hasn't let Canadians know what it is negotiating and how it is negotiating, what is on the table," he said in Surrey, B.C.

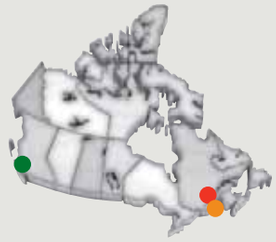
"It would be unrealistic for us to expect that the whole world will stop and wait with bated breath for the outcome of Canada's election. But what we need to know is that our government is negotiating in a way that is going to enhance Canadian opportunities and growth while protecting our interests."

Mulcair said he is "very worried" about what Prime Minister Stephen Harper is willing to put on the table.

"I don't trust Stephen Harper as a negotiator," he said in Iqaluit. "He's not good at it. He has an ideological bent that means he doesn't care about what happens here at home. ... We've been asking the prime minister to defend our supply management system in its entirety and we'll accept nothing less."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE THURSDAY



- **Stephen Harper** has no public events.
- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Montreal.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Montreal.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Victoria, B.C.

IN BRIEF

Former Quebec lieutenant-governor sentenced to 18-month jail term

Calling her behaviour "highly reprehensible," a judge sentenced former Quebec lieutenant-governor Lise Thibault to 18 months in prison on Wednesday. The sentence was handed down six years after Thibault, now 76, was charged with fraud and breach of trust. Thibault was charged two years after a 2007 report by the federal and provincial auditors general revealed she claimed more than $700,000 in improper expenses when she held the post between 1997 and 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

President of COC steps down amid allegations of sexual harassment

Marcel Aubut has stepped down as president of the Canadian Olympic Committee and chairman of the Canadian Olympic Foundation as he is investigated for sexual harassment. Aubut was asked to step away from his duties for the duration of the investigation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hate and humanity

SYRIAN CRISIS

Vitriol as well as support sent to sponsor of refugee family

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Sam Nammoura said he only wanted to "do the right thing" and is feeling a bit "disheartened" after being on the receiving end of harsh comments.

Metro first introduced Nammoura as one of the sponsors of a struggling Syrian refugee family. When Metro reported that the family still needed help in many ways, despite an outpouring of local support, Nammoura's phone number was attached so willing Calgarians could get in touch.

After the initial "overwhelmingly positive responses," Nammoura said, things took a dark turn. He started to receive angry and sometimes hateful messages about the work he was doing, the people he was helping and the refugee crisis in general.

From left: Majd Tahhouf, Waleed Tahhouf, 3, Yasmin Hijazi and Amar Tahhouf, 1. The parents said they have been "blessed" since meeting their benefactors, Saima Jamal and Sam Nammoura. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

"They were trying to make me feel like I didn't appreciate my country or the help the government has given the refugees," said Nammoura. "We do appreciate it, the families appreciate it. But, even though so much has been done, it doesn't mean we can be selfish and drop them."

One text message Nammoura received stated: "We have Canadians in the city who're struggling to feed their kids, and then we have this family who has contributed nothing to this country, and they're complaining Canadian taxpayers are not doing enough or giving them enough. I'm sure there are lots of refugees who would love to trade places with them."

Nammoura said another individual accused him of "using a Canadian paper to get f— Arabs and Muslims help."

Though Nammoura understands how asking for further assistance might have been interpreted as purely monetary, he said the kind of help refugees need extends beyond donations.

Leena Mahmoodi, co-ordinator at the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, echoed Nammoura's sentiment and said refugees require moral and interpretive support.

"It's not just the financial assistance that is required; however, that is absolutely important," she said. "We need volunteers. We need people to help out with escorting people to medical appointments, helping them get connected to libraries, leisure centres and provide them moral support. These are the things that they need."

Nammoura said it all comes down to one word: "compassion."

"We need compassion for everyone. These are human issues, not refugee issues," he said.

DEMOCRACY

Brothers build site to track MP voting

Shay Neufeld was just looking for a way to track MPs' voting records in the House of Commons.

It seemed like something that should exist. Neufeld wanted to see how members of Parliament voted on Bill C-51, the government's anti-terror law.

He found openparliament.ca, a definitive resource. But with many different readings of each bill and no way to easily track a single MP's voting record, it wasn't what he needed.

"I was shocked as a democratic citizen that the government didn't make it easier for me to search through the votes that I wanted to look for," said the 27-year-old Vancouver native, a PhD candidate in neuroscience at Harvard University.

When he realized no such tool existed, he decided to create one. He enlisted his brother Braden, 23, a programmer and website designer.

The result is votes.mp, a searchable website that displays MPs' voting records dating back to 2006. It's searchable by member, riding, postal code, bill number and name and allows users to look at a single politician's voting history in the House of Commons.

"We really just wanted to come down to a simple tool for people to use for a single purpose," Braden Neufeld said.

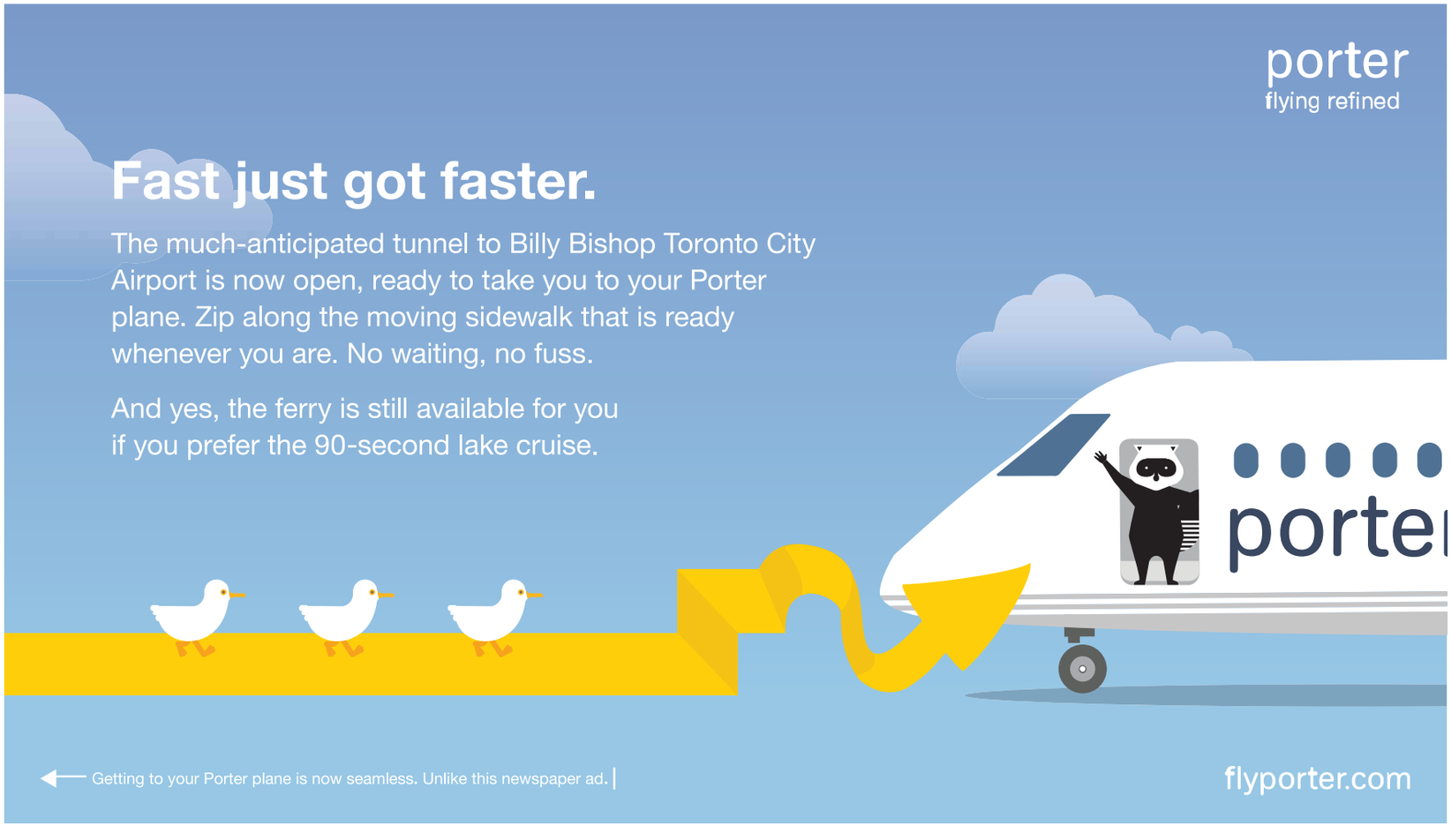
They started in June, using data from openparliament.ca. With the election coming up, they sped up their work. The website went live Sept. 19.

> **"I couldn't believe it. I said, 'Do we really not have something for this?'**
> Braden Neufeld

The brothers said the site has been garnering a couple of thousand views a day. During Monday night's leaders debate, traffic on the site spiked whenever a particular bill was mentioned.

"We're open to suggestions for tools people are looking for," Shay Neufeld said. "This is a good start, but we're also looking to grow."

MICHAEL WOODS/METRO IN OTTAWA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Pope tells Davis: 'Stay strong'

RELIGION

Secret meeting confirmed by Vatican baffles LGBT activists

Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis said meeting the Pope with her husband has inspired her to continue to fight for her religious beliefs. TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Defiant Kentucky clerk Kim Davis met briefly with Pope Francis during his historic U.S. visit, an encounter she said validates her crusade against gay marriage.

"He held out his hand to her and she grasped his hand," her attorney, Mat Staver, told The Associated Press. "He asked her to pray for him and she said she would; she asked the pope to pray for her, and he said he would."

The Vatican essentially confirmed the meeting: The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, given the opportunity to deny it took place, declined to do so and said merely that he would have no comment. The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said the meeting was private and that no photos would be released.

Davis, an Apostolic Christian, became a protagonist in America's divisive culture wars when she defied the federal courts by refusing to license same-sex marriages despite the landmark Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized them nationwide. She spent five days in jail until her deputies agreed to issue licences without her approval.

Davis and her husband met with Francis alone for less than 15 minutes at the Vatican Embassy in Washington, Staver said. He would not say who initiated the meeting with the pope or how it came to be, citing a desire to be "deferential to the Vatican."

> **Pope Francis needs to state clearly where he stands in regard to the inclusion of LGBT people in the church and society.**
> Francis DeBernardo

They chose to keep the meeting a secret while the pope was in the county, to avoid overshadowing his visit with the controversy that follows Davis, Staver said.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, also referred questions back to the Vatican.

"It was really very humbling to even think that he would want to meet me or know me," Davis told ABC News. "Just knowing that the pope is on track with what we're doing and agreeing, you know, it kind of validates everything."

For some, the pope's decision to meet with a figure as divisive as Davis sullied the legacy of his celebratory visit.

DignityUSA, an advocacy group for gay and lesbian Catholics, called their meeting "deeply disappointing" and said it could transform the public perception of the trip "from a largely successful pastoral visit to the endorsement of an exclusionary political agenda."

"That Pope Francis met privately in Washington, D.C. with Kim Davis throws a wet blanket on the good will that the pontiff had garnered during his U.S. visit last week," wrote Francis DeBernardo, the executive director of New Ways Ministry, another Catholic organization that advocates for gay rights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL INTERVENTION

Russia calls for unified combat

Russia followed its launch of airstrikes in Syria with a call on Wednesday for the world to unite in the fight against terrorist groups, and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told foreign ministers of world powers that his country was circulating a draft UN Security Council resolution to help make it happen.

Secretary of State John Kerry responded by announcing that the United States is prepared to welcome Russia actions in Syria if they are directed at the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group and al-Qaida, and promising that the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIL in Syria would "dramatically accelerate our efforts."

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem told the council that his country strongly endorses Russia's latest moves and called airstrikes in Syria that aren't coordinated with his government a "blatant contravention" of international law. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joaquin gains force, nears U.S.

EXTREME WEATHER

Hurricane projected to grow into major storm

Hurricane Joaquin intensified Wednesday as it approached the small, sparsely populated islands of the eastern Bahamas on a projected track that would take it near the East Coast of the U.S. early next week.

Maximum sustained winds reached 135 km/h and extended 55 kilometres from the centre of the storm over the Atlantic Ocean, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami, which predicted that Joaquin would develop into a major hurricane in the coming days.

Authorities in the Bahamas prepared for a brush with the storm, with the centre expected to pass near several eastern islands before heading northwest.

This satellite image shows Joaquin barreling into the Bahamas with maximum sustained winds of 113 km/h.
WEATHER UNDERGROUND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We've got Air Force reconnaissance planes continuously giving us data from inside the hurricane this morning, and we're going to be throwing a lot more aircraft resources at this problem over the next few days because it still is not certain whether or not Joaquin will directly impact the U.S. East Coast or stay out to sea," said Rick Knabb, director of the National Hurricane Center.

The hurricane was expected to pass near the islands of San Salvador, Cat Island, Eleuthera and Rum Cay late Thursday and Friday, close enough that it could bring tropical-storm-force winds, storm surges, coastal flooding and five to 10 inches of rain, said a senior forecaster with the Bahamas Meteorology Department.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

U.S. woman, accused of tossing newborn from window, appears in court

A New York woman accused of concealing her pregnancy and then tossing her newborn daughter from a seventh-storey window has appeared in court on a murder charge.

Thirty-three-year-old Jennifer Berry was arraigned late Tuesday in Bronx Criminal Court and was being held without bail.

Authorities say Berry went to her boyfriend's home, gave birth and threw the baby out the window Monday. Berry's boyfriend told police he didn't know she had given birth or know she was pregnant.

The newborn's umbilical cord was still attached. The baby was discovered in an alleyway by the building superintendent's wife.

The medical examiner says the baby died from blunt force trauma in the fall.

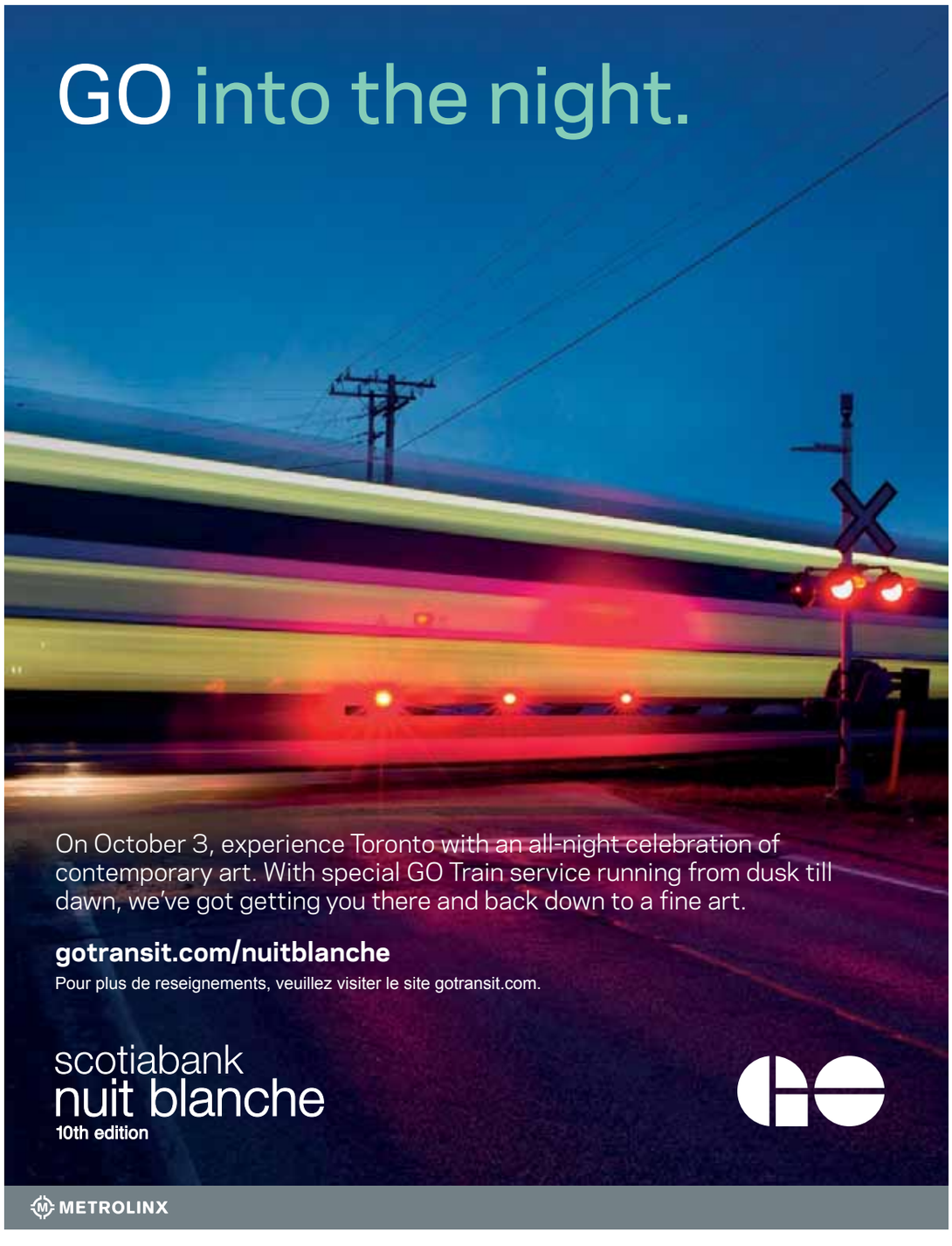
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN changes HIV rules, says doctors should treat patients immediately

The World Health Organization has revised its HIV guidelines to recommend that anyone who tests positive for the virus that causes AIDS should be treated immediately.

The UN health agency had previously said doctors should wait to treat people with HIV until their immune systems suggested they were getting sick. In a statement Wednesday, WHO said the new recommendations are based on recent trials that have found early treatment "keeps people with HIV alive, healthier and reduces the risk of transmitting the virus."

The new guidance means that all 37 million people with HIV globally should be offered immediate treatment, a prospect that may be unrealistic in poor countries, where many patients are still unable to get medicines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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METROLINX

A residential building partially collapsed after the attack, in Liucheng county in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Wednesday. CHINATOPIX VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7 killed by explosives in mail

CHINA

Suspect is local man; state treating case as criminal act

More than a dozen blasts triggered by explosive devices delivered in mail packages killed at least seven people and injured more than 50 in a small city in southern China on Wednesday, officials and state media said.

The Ministry of Public Security said it was treating the case as a criminal act, and not terrorism. It said a 33-year-old local man, identified only by his family name of Wei, was considered a suspect, but provided no further details, including a possible motive or whether the man had been detained. Local media reported the suspect had been apprehended.

A local Communist Party newspaper, the Guangxi Daily, cited police as saying there were 17 explosions in Liucheng, leaving seven people dead, two missing and 51 injured.

The explosions, which occurred between 3:15 p.m. and 5 p.m., hit a hospital, local markets, a shopping mall, a bus station and several government buildings, including a jail and dormitories for government workers, according to a police statement posted by the local newspaper Nanguo Zaobao.

"There were so many of them, and they were so loud, everyone in (Liucheng) could hear them," said a hotel employee who gave only his family name, Li. The hotel is near a township office building that was hit by one of the explosions.

Zhou Changqing, the police chief for the city of Liuzhou, which has jurisdiction over Liucheng, said the blasts were triggered by explosive devices delivered in several mail packages, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

A supermarket employee said the store was evacuated immediately when an adjacent supermarket was hit by an explosion.

"All of us heard the blast. It was very loud," he said.

Photos posted online showed streets filled with smoke, strewn debris, dust clouds in the sky and the rubble from a five-storey building that had partially collapsed.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported that at least one more explosion hit downtown Liuzhou, away from Liucheng. It did not say whether there were any casualties from that blast or whether it was connected to the ones in Liucheng.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"They sounded like someone was blasting rocks in the mountain.
Hotel employee Li

Young adults buy 40% of their news

UNITED STATES

Poll says people use a variety of ways to access content

The survey also indicates that 13 per cent don't pay for content and use someone else's subscription, while 29 per cent paid for a print paper or magazine. RICHARD VOGEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a world flush with free information, some young people are still willing to shell out for news they read.

A recent poll shows that 40 per cent of U.S. adults aged 18-34 pay for at least some of the news they read, whether it's a print newspaper, a digital news app or an email newsletter. Another 13 per cent don't pay themselves but rely on someone else's subscription, according to the survey by Media Insight Project, a collaboration of the American Press Institute and the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Older millennials are more likely than younger ones to personally pay for news.

"Forty per cent is a strong number but that means the majority are not willing to pay," said Keith Herndon, a visiting professor of journalism at the University of Georgia and former journalist.

"We have to think of ways of making the content compelling enough that someone would be willing to pay for it."

The proliferation of free news online and new ways for advertisers to reach consumers has besieged publishers of newspapers and magazines. Newspapers' print ad revenue, their primary source of cash, has dropped 63 per cent, to $16.4 billion, in 2014 from 2003, according to a Pew Research Center analysis. Daily paid newspaper circulation reached a peak in 1984, at 63.3 million, according to the Newspaper Association of America.

The survey of 1,045 young adults was conducted from Jan. 5 through Feb. 2, 2015, by the Media Insight Project, a partnership between the AP-NORC Center and the American Press Institute, which funded the study.

The survey results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUTO INDUSTRY

Ford issues recall for minivans, pickups

Ford is recalling nearly 59,000 older Windstar minivans in Canada as part of a wider safety notice because the fix applied in a previous recall for a rear-axle repair might not work.

The latest recall covers 342,000 vans built at the company's Oakville, Ont., plant from 1998 through 2003 sold in both Canada and the U.S.

Ford said Wednesday that the Windstars were recalled in 2010 due to axle cracks that could grow and lead to complete failure and a crash.

Also on Wednesday, Ford said it was recalling 37,000 F-150 pickups from the 2015 model year in the U.S. and Canada to fix a problem with the adaptive cruise control system that automatically brakes the trucks to avoid a crash. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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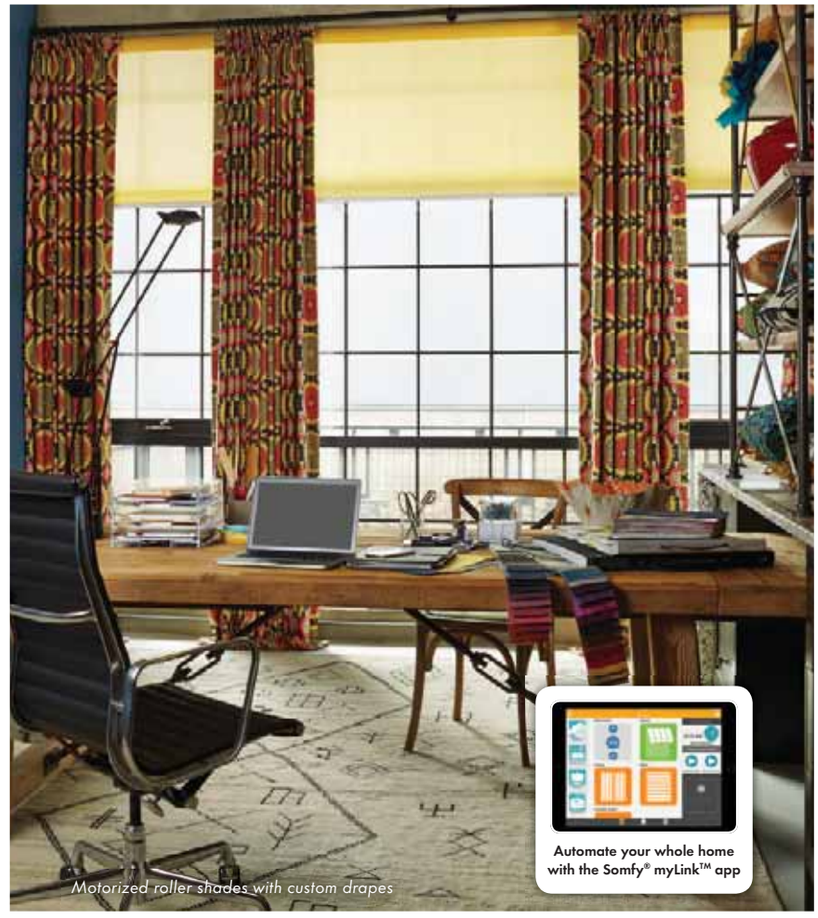

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metro VIEWS

A Guadalcanal moustached kingfisher, a species unseen since 1953, was caught in the Solomon Islands. A researcher voiced doubts about the 19-year search for the bird in a place rife with human problems.

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE NDP IN QUEBEC

A repeat orange wave is indefinitely on hold, and things could actually get worse for the New Democrats.

Less than a month ago, the NDP was poised to sweep Quebec for the second federal election in a row. Now, a repeat orange wave is indefinitely on hold and things could actually get worse for the New Democrats.

An Abacus poll published on Monday showed the NDP still leading the pack in Quebec, but down 17 points from a mid-September sounding. Other polls have reported a smaller drop but all concur on the trend. As the election gets nearer, Thomas Mulcair's party is falling from grace in Quebec.

There is no doubt the controversy over whether Muslim women should be required to unveil their faces to take the oath of citizenship is acting as a catalyst for the drop in party fortunes.

An overwhelming majority of Quebecers support a niqab ban. The NDP opposes it.

But the New Democrat campaign had started to lose steam before the niqab appeared on the radar, for reasons more fundamental than the pent-up passions unleashed by a Conservative play on the identity front.

From a Quebec perspective the NDP's platform is an underwhelming one.

With the provincial government's cost-cutting crusade already taking a toll on its social programs, it is hard to think of a NDP commitment more likely to miss the mark with Quebec's progressive voters than the come-hell-or-high-water determination to balance the federal books. If anything, many Quebecers are suffering from an overdose of government-imposed austerity.

From a Quebec perspective, the NDP platform is an underwhelming one.

The promise of a national universal child-care system has short legs in a province that has set up the most comprehensive program in the country on its own.

Mulcair's call to open the Constitution to abolish the Senate is similarly of limited appeal.

For one, it pits the NDP leader against Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard. He believes the Senate should be reformed, not abolished. And then there is the matter of Quebec's own long-standing constitutional agenda. Couillard insists that a round on the Senate would have to include it as well.

On that score, Mulcair did not help his cause when he told Radio-Canada two weeks ago that the premier's stance was just part of the game.

Going into the campaign, the NDP leader's Quebec trump card was the sense that he was best placed to beat Stephen Harper. More so than any federal NDP initiative, it was the party's victory in Alberta last spring that cemented Mulcair's formidable pre-campaign lead in his home province. Now the fact that the party is running third in the rest of Canada is sinking in.

At this juncture, the question on everyone's mind is whether the NDP has hit bottom in Quebec or whether it could continue to lose support between now and the vote. The short answer is that the New Democrats have no fixed floor of support in Quebec. It has yet to build a solid capital of loyalty.

Mario Dumont, the former leader of the Action Démocratique party, can testify to the perils of that.

In 2007, he came within seven seats of leading his young party to a minority victory against Jean Charest's provincial Liberals. But over the year and a half that followed, Quebecers were unimpressed by the ADQ's performance in official opposition. In an election held 20 short months after he had landed on the doorstep of provincial power, Dumont was left with only seven seats.

If the NDP is to avoid going in a similar tailspin, time is increasingly of the essence. Over the next four days, Mulcair will have his last best two opportunities to reverse the tide.

On Friday, he will take part in the last French-language debate of the campaign on the Quebec private network TVA. Then, on Sunday, Mulcair will appear on Tout le monde en parle, Radio-Canada's popular television talk show. Both events are expected to draw large audiences.

But Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau is going into the debate on more of a roll than he is, and the niqab issue that has been the NDP's nemesis in Quebec is bound to come up on both nights.

Mulcair is down two strikes. He desperately needs a home run if he wants his party to still be the Quebec home team after Oct. 19.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: The prolific province

Ah, Saskatchewan. Wholesome, flat Saskatchewan. The province of grain growers, saskatoon berries, and ... babies? Yes. So many babies. Saskatchewan is bucking the Canada-wide trend towards an aging population. The children from this fertile land still outnumber seniors. According to a new Statistics Canada report, 19 per cent of Saskatchewanians are under 15 years old, compared to a 16 per cent average in Canada. Just 14.6 per cent of the population is 65 or older, versus 16.1 per cent nationwide. Why? In part, it's a growing population of indigenous people, who tend to skew younger and have higher fertility rates. And as for the dearth of old folks — many are retiring elsewhere to escape those cold prairie nights.

SOURCE: NEWS TALK 650/THE CANADIAN PRESS

metroview

Want to close the pay gap? Women need to talk more about money

Renee Sylvestre-Williams
For Metro

Let's talk about something we rarely talk about: salaries.

Two incidents have shaped my views on salary negotiations.

The first was when I was negotiating my first salary increase. I was at an online media company and had recently taken on new responsibilities and hit some pretty impressive, measurable targets. I wanted a raise because I thought I deserved one. I made an appointment to speak with my boss.

After 30 excruciating minutes, I got a two-per-cent increase with a condescending, "You should be grateful for that." I handed in my notice three months later. I couldn't work for someone who tried to make me feel bad about asking for more money.

Canadian women make significantly lower wages than men for many reasons: A shortfall of women in senior positions, a widespread fear of asking for more and a dearth of conversations at the grassroots level.

We can help each other understand what we're worth.

To close the gap, we need to talk about money. We should talk about which companies provide the best work-life balance, which have the best perks and which offer the best pay.

Yet how many of us negotiate our salaries, or have told our friends what we make? Most don't.

According to a report released in May by the WEB Alliance of Women's Business Networks, Canadian women make an average of $8,000 per year less than men in equivalent positions.

By discussing our salaries with our friends, we can tear down the systemic barriers that stop us from earning the same pay as men. We can help each other understand what we're worth.

And that's how you will get the support you're going to need when, not if, you ask for more money.

The second incident was when I was doing the hiring. We offered the candidate the full salary as budgeted. She asked for more. I told her we had offered her as much as we could afford. And I was so happy that she asked.

So, we need to have this conversation. I'll start. I freelance, so my income depends on how much work I get — but in my best year, I make close to $70,000.

Now it's your turn.

Renee Sylvestre-Williams is the publisher of the Ethnic Aisle, a digital magazine about race and ethnicity in Toronto.

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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

Building complete communities

RENOVATE WITH CONFIDENCE

Bill Meek has inherited his share of renos gone wrong.

"We fix a lot of them," says the owner of W.C. Meek Design and Construction Ltd.

One of the worst in recent memory involved a fully detached house where a handyman had removed a wall to create a more open kitchen layout. The homeowner thought everything looked great.

There was just one problem.

"The guy had taken away a load-bearing wall," Meek says, "as if it were a partition wall, and he didn't replace it with a beam."

Six months later, Meek and company were called in because the second floor of the home — lacking any structural support beneath the now-opened wall, had begun to sink.

"The middle of the house had dropped down about six inches," he says. He brought in an engineer to assess the damage, then hoisted the floor back up and supported it with a footing, while also putting in a beam to undergird the opened kitchen wall.

Total cost to fix the problem: $25,000.

"If it had been done properly initially it would have been a $10,000 job, max," Meek says.

Not hiring a qualified renovator to do the initial job hit this homeowner's wallet hard. But the structurally unsound house posed
an even greater threat to the safety of its residents.

"This woman trusted a person who said he could do what he couldn't do," Meek says, adding that she'd paid him in cash. "The guy just didn't have the education."

It's an eye-opening cautionary tale that underscores the need for homeowners to choose carefully when picking a renovator.

There's never been a busier time for the renovation industry. With the many homes across the GTA ripe for revamping, each year about four in 10 households invest in renovations, at an average cost of $14,000, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. With low interest rates and rising home prices — compelling homeowners to stay put and improve what they've got — the renovation industry is driving the local economy, generating 87,300 jobs and $4.8 billion in wages, and creating $13 million in investment value in the GTA alone last year, according to research commissioned by the Canadian Home Builders' Association.

Bill Meek of W.C. Meek Design has seen his share of renos gone wrong. He advises homeowners to spend the time to find the right renovator. Peyman Soheili

"Working with a professional renovator is of utmost importance because you want to be confident that you're trusting your home to someone with the right knowledge and experience to do the job and do it right," says Bryan Tuckey, president and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). "If you think it's expensive to hire a professional, keep in mind how much it will cost in the long run if you hire an amateur."

Hundreds of professional renovators and trade contractors are available at your fingertips. A good place to look is renomark.ca, where there is a searchable online database of professional renovators. RenoMark renovators and trade contractors agree to a renovation-specific code of conduct, and they provide a written c ontract; offer a minimum $2 million in liability insurance; provide a two-year warranty on all work; and they have all applicable licenses and permits to get the job done right.

RenoMark is a great starting point, says Joel Scopelleti, owner of Carick Home Improvements, a BILD member since 1998 and a RenoMark renovator since the program's inception in 2001.

Most critical, he says, is to have a contract that spells out everything: the timetable for the project; an itemized work order of what's included in the scope and what's not; procedures for handling change orders; and, of course, a payment schedule.

"It's better for everybody if it's all there in writing," he added.

Visit fallhomeshow.com and redeem the promo code RENO101 to get $4 off regular adult admission to the Fall Home Show.

5 STEPS TO A WORRY-FREE RENO

FOLLOW THIS APPROACH TO AVOID BIG HEADACHES

1. PLAN CAREFULLY

Think about why you're renovating and your long-term plans for your house. Determine your budget and research what permits may be needed for the changes you want made.

2. HIRE A PROFESSIONAL RENOVATOR

Ask about the renovator's experience with projects similar to yours and call past. clients. A professional renovator will have liability insurance, licences and can help you get the proper permits. A RenoMark renovator must agree to abide by a local home builders' association's code of ethics and a renovation-specific code of conduct.

3. GET A WRITTEN CONTRACT

Sign a contract with a renovator to perform the work. Be sure to get everything in writing: the scope of the job; exact price, including a schedule of payments; a reasonable timetable for completing the work; and instructions for protecting parts of the house not under construction. Avoid renovators who want to make a "cash deal" or seek to avoid paying HST.

4. CHECK ON PROGRESS

Schedule regular meetings with your renovator and visit the site to look in on how things are moving along. Discuss changes and make sure to get it in writing.

5. COMMUNICATE

Keep the lines of communication open at all times as changes or additional work can come up and may add to the project's cost and timing. Remember, your contractor is your partner in realizing your vision for your project.

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Your essential daily news

Orson Welles' personal manuscripts for Citizen Kane fetch over $102,000 at auction

Not your average chick-lit author

BOOKS

Jojo Moyes releases the sequel to 2013 bestseller

British author Jojo Moyes' latest novel After You hit shelves this week. HANDOUT

A book that wins millions of fans is a tough act to follow. And British novelist JoJo Moyes was all too aware of this as she wrote After You, the sequel to her New York Times bestseller Me Before You.

"It has been the most nerve-racking book that I've ever written," she said in an interview. "So many people feel so invested in these characters."

To say that Me Before You was an unexpected hit is an understatement.

When Moyes decided to write a romance between a caregiver and her depressed, paralyzed patient, her publisher was lukewarm.

"In hindsight I can understand why," Moyes says with a laugh. "A quadriplegic man who wants to die doesn't sound like the most compelling piece of fiction."

Except, of course, it was. Me Before You introduced the world to Louisa Clark, an endearing English everywoman. Her predictable, small-town life was blown open when she went to work for neighbour Will Traynor, a London hotshot who had been paralyzed by a traffic accident.

Their bond was intimate and powerful, but ultimately not enough to save Will from despair — and in the final pages they made the journey to Dignitas in Switzerland to end his life.

Hardly your average chick-lit plot, but then Moyes has never been your average chick-lit author.

The former journalist distinguished herself early on from the cocktail-sipping masses.

Known for her wit, humour and cultural savvy, Moyes writes against the grain, sidestepping the familiar tropes of glamorous jobs and syrupy soul mates.

"I have an absolute horror of being seen as somebody who just writes the handsome man who came in and swept her off her feet and everyone lives happily ever after, " she says. "I'm far more interested in the messy stuff."

Me Before You catapulted Moyes out of this pink ghetto and made her a bona fide literary star.

She was reviewed by serious publications and tapped by MGM to write the screenplay for Me Before You, due to hit theatres in 2016.

Most significantly for Moyes — who's had two family members require around-the-clock care — it placed her at the centre of the assisted suicide debate.

"I don't think you can hang onto a moral absolute if you are faced with the reality of that situation," she says. "The only people who know all the answers are the people who've never been faced with the questions."

Moyes began to receive daily emails from readers around the world.

"The ones that really stand out to me are from the caregivers," she says. "They get me into the same head space as Lou, which is: you don't see the disability, you see the person that you love."

The character Lou was a lightning rod for all this emotion and people clamoured to know what happened to her. Moyes found herself wondering too.

And so After You, out this week, resurrects her. The novel finds Lou holed up in London, reverting back to her old ways, leading a claustrophobic life and tending bar at an Irish-themed airport pub.

"To be part of someone taking their own life would be such a huge event, " says Moyes. "I needed to show that there was a cost to those sorts of decisions."

Lou belongs to a comical church basement grief group, The Moving On Circle, but is otherwise alone (until a surprise plot twist blows open her world once again).

"When I put myself in her shoes, I thought: What would you do? You would just be leading this very solitary existence. Because how on Earth could you justify what you've been part of to people who don't know the whole story?

"That is one of the things that intrigues me and is probably a theme that I'll return to again and again, " she says.

"How things look from the outside are not necessarily how they are."

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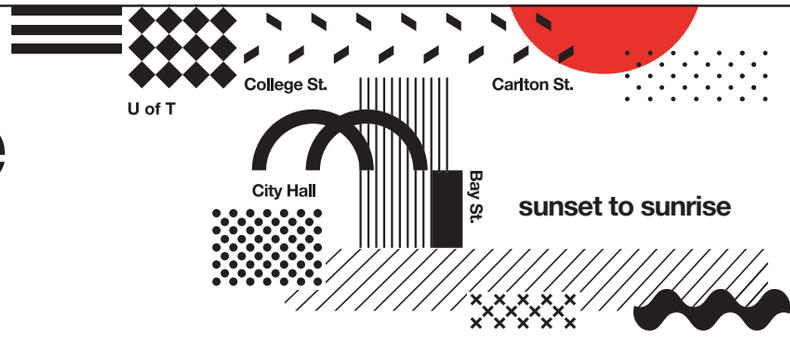

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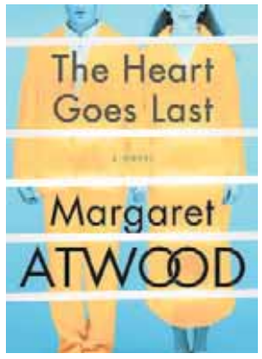
A modern, slightly dystopian satire

Margaret Atwood says there are no heros in The Heart Goes Last. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MARGARET ATWOOD

Latest effort 'a dark, romantic comedy'



Margaret Atwood is clearly having fun.

Her latest book The Heart Goes Last, is a romp of a book featuring sex robots, Elvis impersonators and blue teddy bears that are sure to give you nightmares for weeks to come.

And she's having a blast on Twitter, of which she's a prodigious user — she's tweeted pics of herself in Vegas on the arm of a Captain Jack impersonator.

"That's the fun bit" about social media, she says, in an interview in the airy downtown Toronto offices of Penguin Random House Canada where we're talking about the book as well as the possibilities of technology.

The Heart Goes Last began on Byliner, a "boutique" website that published literary authors online. Four episodes of the then-titled Positron series went up, but Byliner went down and the rights for the story reverted to Atwood and her Byliner editor Amy Grace Loyd suggested it become a book.

She calls it "a dark romantic comedy in which there are no heroes." But as with anything Atwood, satire ensures that even when you are having fun, you feel slightly uncomfortable.

The Heart Goes Last is a comment on current politics — on unbridled capitalism, on the trend to the conservative right, on the tough economic times being faced by young people whose employment is precarious and whose dreams of a stable job, home and family are getting tougher to attain.

It's a thoroughly modern story, yet Atwood hearkens back to Victorian times and that era's novels of manners and the 1950s. She's long had a keen interest in the history and use of prisons — what should they be used for: punishment, to pay off a debt, to reform people, to make them penitent?

"We really need to think about that because right now we have an overstuffed prison system that's full of people who probably shouldn't be there at all and they're learning to be criminals."

This gives you a clue to what she really seems to be getting at in the latest of her more than 40 books of poetry, non-fiction and fiction.

So the idea is: why not use the prison for good: Let's give everybody a job and a roof over their heads. That gives birth in the book to the Positron Project — those who sign up live happily in the town of Consilience; the only trick is they have to live in a prison every second month.

"This is a nice utopian scheme, it is a time-sharing scheme in which you play the prisoner one month and you get to be a citizen the next month."

The world of Consilience is filled with echoes of the '50s. "They structure it to be a very calming situation."

It doesn't quite work out as a panacea to society's ills, but it does provide Atwood a way of looking at human nature — both of those who are running the joint and those who have signed up to stay inside.

While she is adamant there will be no spoilers, Atwood will say "I do think absolute power corrupts, and I do think absolute temptation is very tempting if you think that nobody has oversight or can catch you doing whatever it is you're doing."

While it might seem rather hopeless, Atwood doesn't see it that way. She's compassionate, but she doesn't let us dodge personal responsibility.

Which brings us back to the sex robots.

"With each of the technologies we develop there's a good side, a dark side and a stupid side which are the effects we hadn't anticipated. It's a Pandora's box.

"We've discovered a lot of things that could've destroyed us and we've pulled back in time," she notes.

The technology is neutral, she says. It's what we humans do with it that counts.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

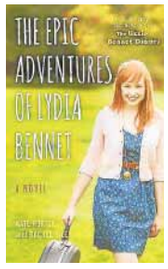
MODERN PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

The other Bennet sister gets the spotlight

Emily Laurence
Metro | New York

If you aren't one of the 60 million people who watched the Secret Diary of Lizzie Bennet series on YouTube, here's a quick rundown: The series, created by Bernie Su and Hank Green, is a modern take on Pride and Prejudice in which Elizabeth Bennet starts a vlog that turns her family into Internet superstars.

Now, Lydia, the 20-year-old younger sister, is getting her turn in the spotlight, with a new novel told from her perspective written by series writers Kate Rorick and Rachel Kiley.



"When we finished the Web series, every storyline was pretty much wrapped up except for Lydia's," Rorick says.

"In the series, Lydia is portrayed from Lizzie's perspective, but the book is told from Lydia's perspective and told in her own voice so (readers) can see how she thinks and reacts to the world around her," Kiley adds.

Though Lizzie was the main focus on the series, Rorick and Kiley saw early on that fans connected with Lydia, too. The fictional sisters had their own social media accounts — with more followers than most IRL people have — and fans reached out to Lydia.

"A lot of girls messaged Lydia saying she helped them see relationships in their lives differently or come to terms with certain things," Kiley says. "It's a fascinating response to a Web series we didn't necessarily expect, but it's really cool to see."

The Bennet sisters aren't the only characters from classic literature Rorick and Kiley think would kill it on social media today. "All of the Dickens tales have such gossips," Rorick says. "Letter writing was an art back then. They would spend half their days writing letters. Elizabeth Barrett Browning would probably have a huge text affair."

LISTEN UP GRADS

Waters wisdom in a book

Listen up young people, John Waters has some life lessons to pass on.

Algonquin Books announced Wednesday that a commencement speech by the filmmaker best known for Hairspray will be released in book form in spring 2017, just in time for that year's graduating class.

Make Trouble is based on the talk Waters gave earlier this year at The Rhode Island School of Design. Among his suggestions: "Contemporary art's job is to wreck what came before," and, "Use technology for transgression, not lazy social living." Video of the speech soon went viral.

In a statement, Waters called the book "the perfect graduation gift from parents to their troubled children."

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Why I collect

Despite other formats overtaking the LP as preferred listening method, records are still collected around the world. A new book, Dust & Grooves by Israeli-born photographer Eilon Paz, celebrates record collections — the people who amass them and the objects themselves.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Joe Bussard

Bussard is here, sitting in his basement with his collection of records — including some of the rarest 78s in existence. "For Bussard, record collecting has always meant driving into the backwoods, parking your car, and walking door-to-door to ask the locals if they have any records in the house and, if so, whether they'd be willing to sell them."

Natasha Braggs

Braggs, from Brooklyn, N.Y., rifles through a box of records labeled "Boogie." Like other collectors in the book, she talks about the connection between music and mood — and how the records you keep can reflect different stages and moments in your life.

DJ Jeff 'Chairman' Mao

"Those observing from outside the vinyl-adoring bubble inevitably ask, why? Well, because we like to look at things. And hold them ... we're stuck on the fact that there's no greater audio-visual combo than a piece of music pressed onto vinyl, accompanied by the art enshrined on those perfect canvases that are its label, sleeve, and album cover."

Philip Osey Kojo

Philip was photographed in Mampong, Ghana. The joy on his face speaks volumes about his love for records — his record player had broken for good thirty years ago. Clearly, he never got rid of the vinyl. Here, he and his music are reunited.

Keb Darge

As with bank accounts, divorce can wreak havoc on record collections. Here Keb Darge connects with some of the 45s he's managed to hold on to through three divorces.

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Sex and politics of the beach vacation

FARZANA DOCTOR

Story follows character who works at an all-inclusive resort

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

I began to wonder about the ... inequalities that allow middle-class Canadians to enjoy these vacations
Farzana Doctor

Creative inspiration can strike at the oddest times.

Just ask Toronto author Farzana Doctor, who had been working on her third novel, All Inclusive, for several years and was feeling stuck and frustrated.

Then one night, a voice spoke to her as she was riding her bike down a steep hill.

Doctor's story follows a young woman named Ameera, who lives and works at a Mexican all-inclusive resort.

After hearing that voice speak to her, Doctor knew immediately that the missing character was Ameera's father, Azeez, who died in the 1985 Air India bombing that killed more than 300 passengers and crew.

"When I stopped my bike to take this in, I felt, 'Oh my God, I don't want to write about that," Doctor says.

"I also wondered, 'Can I write about it? I don't have a personal connection. I'm not a family member of one of the victims.'"

As she started researching the Air India tragedy, considered the worst terrorist act in Canadian history, Doctor realized there hasn't been much fiction published on the subject.

"I thought I could write a story from a different perspective, and add to the remembrance of this really important event," she says. "You want to address the issue with integrity — there are real family members of the victims out there."

At the heart of All Inclusive, published by Dundurn Press, is Ameera's relationship with Azeez, though she never had a chance to physically meet her father, who was killed in the bombing a day after a brief tryst with her mother.

But he is a presence, as he observes her life on the resort from the afterworld.

Doctor says she has a "love-hate relationship" with all-inclusives, stemming from when she was a child.

"These are places where my family went on vacation and I got a lot of attention from my fairly busy parents," she says. "But then as I grew more politicized, I began to wonder about the social and financial inequalities that allow middle-class Canadians to enjoy these vacations where the staff are invisible and in the background."

Six years ago while vacationing at a resort, she became fascinated with one of the tour operators.

"How does she live? What is it like to work here? It's the middle of winter and I wondered what it would be like to live in a tropical place all the time, and to deal with annoying tourists," Doctor says.

"These resorts are a bit like walled-in amusement parks. They exist within countries but they are countries unto themselves, and feel like a blank slate for writing a novel."

In All Inclusive, Ameera not only deals with tourists, but they're also a source of sexual pleasure, as she discreetly hooks up with vacationing couples whom she hopes she'll never see again.

"I wanted to explore her sexuality as a metaphor for her growth. I see all that as a way of her becoming more grounded in who she is," says Doctor.

"But really, the book is about a father and a daughter finding themselves and each other."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

FRANCHISE

Candy Crush gets book deal

Candy Crush Saga is to add books to its ever-expanding franchise, getting in on the success of adult colouring with one of two titles due out this season.

Little, Brown is to launch the first two books in a collection that will spring from its licensing deal with King Digital Entertainment, the creator of Candy Crush. Candy Crush Saga and Candy Crush Soda Saga are played by 98 million daily active users worldwide.

For aficionados of the hugely popular mobile game, The Official Candy Crush Saga Top Tips Guide, out Nov. 3, will offer up just what its title promises: an in-depth look at the Candy Kingdom and its parallel Dreamworld, complete with tips for mastering the game's mechanics and its most challenging levels.

The second title taps into a major trends of the moment — adult colouring — with The Candy Crush Coloring Book. Inspired by the episodes and characters from the Candy Kingdom, it is said to be "beautifully intricate," featuring "divine landscapes, sweet patterns and the delectable super-sweet Candies."

When it releases on Oct. 27, it will join a host of other adult colouring books to come from major franchises in recent months, including offerings from Marvel and Game of Thrones.

AFP

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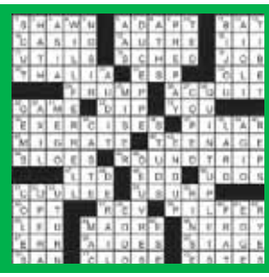

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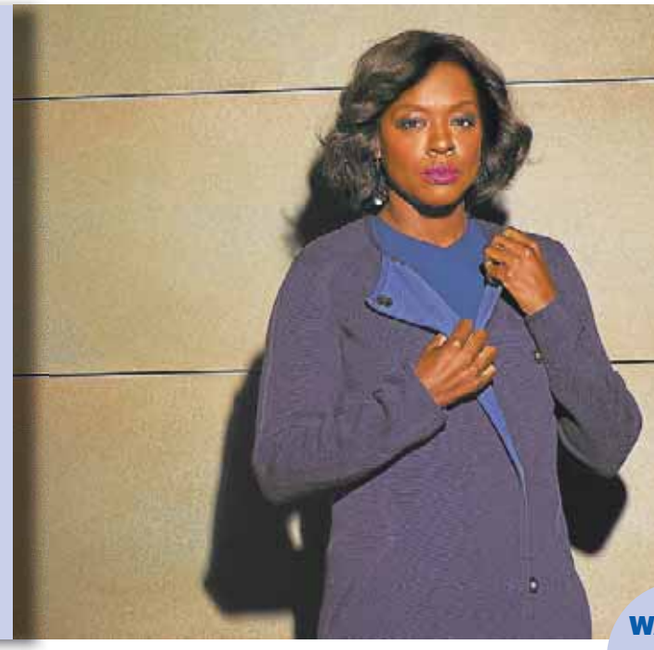
INTERVIEW

Viola Davis on how viewers don't forgive flaws in women

Lisa Weidenfeld
Metro | New York

She's not likeable and she doesn't care



It's safe to say Viola Davis has had a pretty successful run in her first lead in a network drama. After one season, she became the first African-American woman to win an Emmy for best actress in a drama for her role as the brilliant but tortured Annalise Keating in How to Get Away with Murder.

But it hasn't all been easy. Davis says she's heard criticism that Annalise isn't likeable enough, which isn't what she wants to hear.

"It frustrates me a little bit because I feel that people don't understand what it means to be an actor. I don't think James Gandolfini or, I don't know, Robert DeNiro in Taxi Driver, or Dexter, or James Spader, I don't think they get asked that. I think that people just accept the character. They accept what they're being given, and they actually reward (the characters) because they feel like it's complicated," says Davis. "It's only women that you want to be pretty and likeable."

And it isn't just random commenters on the Internet that are hating on Annalise.

"I remember I read a review, too, where someone wrote 'I don't think I'll continue to watch How to Get Away with Murder because she's not pretty and she's not likeable,' and I thought to myself that nobody will ever address that as being their stuff," says Davis.

"They'll put it on the actor. And me as an actor, that's not my responsibility. If I make her likeable, then I'm pushing an edit button and that's not what you're supposed to do as an actor. You don't press an edit button."

But the likeability problem extends beyond just asking that Annalise be more charming. People seem to really like the villain characters that Gandolfini and other male actors have brought to life, and Davis says that affection is influenced by gender.

"They will forgive their mess. We understand that men at the end of the day are flawed. A man can have 50 affairs, but still there's something charming about him. But a woman, like in Fatal Attraction, who's having sex with a married man, is a b—. There is something about women that we want to stay virtuous," she says.

It's the first time Davis has stayed with a character this long, since she's generally been known for film work.

She's enjoying the long-term work with Annalise, but adds with a laugh, "ask me that in another three years."

Davis has also had some influence on what ends up on the show — it was her idea, for example, to shoot a powerful segment where Annalise takes her wig and makeup off. It was a scene that demonstrated the vulnerability of both actress and character. She hopes that there will be more scenes like that in the future.

"I think the most revolutionary things that you can do are the most simple.

"And I think taking the wig off, having a scene with a mother talking about sexual abuse, a mother (and) a woman of colour, putting me between her legs and doing my hair, all those things, no matter what people say, you've never seen it on TV. You just haven't. You haven't seen me on TV. And that's what excites me, that (creator) Pete (Nowalk) is willing to go there."

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CHRIS HADFIELD

Spaceman's songs

Astronaut's 12-song album billed as first 'off-planet' record

The album that astronaut Chris Hadfield recorded in space will be released Oct. 9. COLE BURSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chris Hadfield's music has landed on Earth.

The songs the Canadian astronaut recorded in space have been fully orchestrated and will be released as a 12-song album on Oct. 9.

Titled Space Session: Songs From a Tin Can, it documents the experiences of space flight including Ride That Lightning, which describes Hadfield's decision to embark on a third blastoff into space. It is being billed as the first record "off planet."

That last trip of 144 days in 2013 was marked by unprecedented public access to the inner workings of a space station through Hadfield's use of social media. The highlight was Hadfield's rendition of David Bowie's Space Oddity, which has more than 26 million views on YouTube.

Hadfield, who is already a celebrity, says he has no designs on being a rock star.

"I'm not going touring," laughs Hadfield, who grew up listening to the music of many Canadian artists, including Neil Young, Leonard Cohen, Guess Who and BTO. "Music is an attempt to express a passionate part of yourself. I have a one-man speaking tour and music is a part of that."

Since his last space flight, Hadfield has written two books, one containing the many photographs he took in space, and continued to promote music and science education wherever possible.

"My mission in life is to contribute to the quality of life for as many people as possible and make it sustainable."

He sees the world as a wonderful place to explore whether its from the heights of space or the depths of the ocean, where he once conducted experiments and gave back rubs to a 500-pound grouper.

"I think arts and science should be in the same part of the newspaper," he says, citing the example of a beautiful sunset that is experienced both scientifically — as water vapour — and emotionally.

> **Music is an attempt to express a passionate part of yourself. I have a one-man speaking tour and music is a part of that**
>
> Chris Hadfield

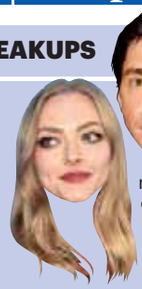
That explains Generator, his eclectic concert on Oct. 28 at Massey Hall, described as a science-based variety show. He's done previous Generator shows in England involving music, comedy and education, and says comedians can make the purification of water in space "very funny."

In what is expected to be an annual show, produced in conjunction with creative agency launch*pad, Hadfield hosts and comedian and actor Robin Ince emcees. Comedian Mark Little, Toronto street band Tupper Ware Remix Party, comedic duo The Templeton Philharmonic and Ontario robotic designers are part of the mix.

The music will include songs from the new album, says Hadfield, who broached Warner Music Canada president Steve Kane about the project when he retired. Producer Robbie Lackritz took the unaltered vocal and guitar tracks and added orchestration in the studio. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GOSSIP BREAKUPS

Long time coming



Amanda Seyfried has apparently kicked boyfriend Justin Long to the curb after two years of dating, according to Us Weekly.

"It happened a few weeks ago," a source explains. "He's really heartbroken."

Earlier this year in an interview with Vogue, Seyfried both revealed how she initially fell for Long — on Instagram, if you can believe it — and hinted that things might not be working out so well.

"I thought something he said was really funny. It was a beautiful picture of a snail, and the caption said, 'F—ing MOOOOOOOOVE.' It made me laugh out loud, so I texted him," she explained.

But: "Making movies is two solid months of 12-, 14-hour days. I mean, it can ruin your relationship." Apparently she wasn't just talking hypothetically. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Austin Green wants that green

Poor Brian Austin Green. Not only is he going through a divorce — amicable or not — with Megan Fox, but now everyone gets to see the documents showing him asking her for spousal support. TMZ got its hands on the filing this week in which Green valiantly checks the "spousal or domestic partner support" box, indicating that Fox is the bigger earner of the two. Which makes sense since Green has apparently been battling vertigo and not working much since he and Fox were in a car accident last December. Bummer, man. NED EHRBAR/METRO

O Brother, There art thou

SCREENING

Clooney and Coens reunite for film's 15th anniversary

George Clooney talks with Joel Coen on the red carpet before a special 15th anniversary screening of O Brother, Where Art Thou? during the New York Film Festival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

George Clooney joined the Coen brothers, and co-stars Tim Blake Nelson and John Turturro at a special 15th-anniversary screening of O Brother, Where Art Thou? at the New York Film Festival.

Clooney remembered he had just left a successful TV series when the opportunity came up.

"I was an actor coming off of ER," said Clooney Tuesday night after arriving at the event. "The Coen brothers said, 'Do you want to do a movie?' And I was like, 'Yeah, I'll do a movie with the Coen brothers, are you kidding? They do great films.' I just couldn't believe my luck."

Clooney admits he felt a geographic familiarity with the characters. "I grew up in Kentucky and I kind of know these guys a little bit," he said.

Ethan Coen and his brother, Joel, wrote the screenplay, based on The Odyssey by Homer, and directed it. While the film was critically acclaimed and enjoyed moderate success, the soundtrack was a smash hit. Produced by T Bone Burnett, it was made up of artists from the American roots music scene that included Alison Krauss, Ralph Stanley, Gillian Welch and Emmylou Harris. It sold 8 million albums and earned a Grammy Award for album of the year.

Coen loved how the music and the film unexpectedly came together, but also discussed the tricky marriage of the two.

One of biggest hits from the film, I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow, sung by the fictional Soggy Bottom Boys, which included Clooney, Blake-Nelson and Turturro, does not include Clooney's voice. It was actually bluegrass musician Dan Tyminski.

Clooney told reporters he originally recorded the track, but after he came out of the recording booth, producer Burnett just put his head down and looked away. Clooney said he knew at that moment his voice was getting dubbed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RELATIONSHIPS

Ben dumps his nanny

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

They said it was just a phase, and apparently they were right. Ben Affleck has reportedly called off his post-divorce dalliance with his and Jennifer Garner's former nanny, Christine Ouzounian — to the rejoice of spell-checkers everywhere.

"He cut ties with her recently," a source tells Life & Style. "He told Christine he couldn't handle another relationship when things were still so painful and raw between him and Jen."

Sure, that. And maybe also because you shouldn't date the nanny? I mean, I understand the siren song of convenience and all, but come on. "He had fun with (her), but it wasn't love," the source adds, wistfully.

You know who was totally surprised by this development? Ouzounian herself, apparently, who was "blindsided" by the breakup.

"When Ben finally told Christine things were over, she was pissed," another source says. "Christine is very upset and says Ben should be worried. In her mind, this is far from over."

Oh, delightful.

VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER

Jenner off the hook

Prosecutors declined to charge Caitlyn Jenner on Wednesday in a California car crash that killed another driver, citing insufficient evidence to support a case.

Authorities said Jenner was towing an off-road vehicle on a trailer behind a Cadillac Escalade on Feb. 7 when she crashed into two cars, pushing one into oncoming traffic. Driver Kim Howe died when her Lexus was hit by a Hummer in Malibu.

"We believed from the start that a thorough and objective investigation would clear Caitlyn of any criminal wrongdoing," said Blair Berk, Jenner's attorney. "We are heartened the district attorney has agreed that even a misdemeanour charge would be inappropriate. A traffic accident, however devastating and heartbreaking when a life is lost, is not necessarily a criminal matter."

The accident occurred before Jenner announced she is transgender and transitioned into her new identity as Caitlyn. Sheriff's investigators previously determined that Jenner, 65, was travelling at an unsafe speed for the road conditions at the time and there was enough evidence to support a vehicular manslaughter charge.

The case was then referred to the district attorney's major crimes division. A prosecutor wrote in a one-page sheet declining to file charges that Jenner was travelling slightly below the posted speed limit and began braking less than two seconds before the crash.

To prove misdemeanour vehicular manslaughter, prosecutors would have had to show Jenner was negligent and had violated a basic speed law.

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Kate Moss ventures into interior design with retro-glamour house in Cotswolds, U.K.

What's old is new again

CONDO TRENDS

A look at historic home renos and condo conversions around Canada

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

In a popular real estate trend, former warehouses, churches and industrial buildings all across Canada are being converted into lofts and condos. In addition, a number of new condo builds are incorporating a historic podium or heritage facade, serving as the base of a brand-new tower rising above.

When done right, these venerable residential transformations make for a unique and classical living space, with vaulted ceilings, sash windows, limestone features, exposed brick and period lighting fixtures — exquisite details that you just don't find in contemporary buildings.

The former Eden House at 147 East Gate in Winnipeg was built in 1885, and has a lot of the original character to it. The century home is currently up for sale. "It's got that grand old home feel; it still has the servants' quarters," says real estate agent Tannis Engel.

Originally the Arthur F. Eden house, it's the oldest standing house in Armstrong Point. "It's right in the heart of downtown in a little pocket community along the river," says Tannis. The family has owned the property for 37 years. "It's true to its original size and shape and she (current owner Roslyn Scott) has restored it as accurately as she could."

The former Eden House at Armstrong Point in Winnipeg was built in 1885, and still has a lot of its original character. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

In Edmonton, Chandos Construction Ltd. jacked-up a five-storey heritage building, previously used as a warehouse, and built a parkade under it. No small feat under any circumstances. The Phillips Lofts at 10169-104th St. is a heritage condo conversion in Edmonton's Warehouse District.

The existing structure of the 90,000-sq.-ft. building consisted of rough-sawn timbers with a post-and-beam configuration. The Chandos design team incorporated these features to maintain the heritage of the building.

The Residences of Royal Connaught in Hamilton.

The Residences of Royal Connaught at 112 King St. E. in Hamilton, Ont., is a century-old grand hotel that has been meticulously renovated by Valery Homes and the Spallacci Group and converted into modern condominium suites.

An exquisite art-deco lobby is the centrepiece of the heritage restoration. The grand foyer opens up to 23-foot ceilings with crystal chandeliers. Designed by KNY Architects, the completed project will include three new residential towers housing 700 condominium suites in the heart of downtown.

Valery Homes president Ted Valeri says that a project of this magnitude has many challenges. They literally saved the old hotel from the wrecking ball and brought it back to life.

"We've never done anything quite so fulfilling and satisfying," Valeri says. "It's a very rewarding feeling. The Royal Connaught is a special place to Hamiltonians."

STORIED PAST

Legendary Warehouse Lofts
1920 Bank St., Ottawa
Legendary Warehouse is a new condominium residence by Linden Developments with 10 storeys and 116 units. Legend has it that the building was a secret warehouse in Ottawa's south side, used to store kegs of whiskey. Currently under construction, the authentic loft-style condo spaces are industrially inspired, with a natural stone and wood lobby. The suites offer a live-work environment.

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Attracting jobs with uniquely built spaces

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

Unique workplaces are being designed and constructed across the GTA and they are making the region more attractive to employers.

As our economy continues to change from one largely driven by traditional manufacturing to one based on knowledge-based industries, the development industry is designing innovative spaces for the emerging economy and building unique environments that are connected to nearby amenities.

The workplaces created by commercial and retail developers help existing businesses grow and attract new ones, which contribute to job growth in the GTA.

BILD member Orlando Corporation recently developed a 267,000-square-foot building near the airport to house the aerospace engineering firm MHI Canada Aerospace, a division of Mitsubishi.

Orlando is Canada's largest industrial real estate developer and it is well versed in working with its clients to create the right space for their workforces. MHI Canada Aerospace employs technicians and engineers but it didn't need traditional office space with lots of offices, meeting rooms or desks. Instead, its space had to be designed to accommodate the assembly of massive airplane wings, and Orlando designed and constructed bays that are almost three times as wide as what is found in a typical industrial building.

> **It is difficult to construct buildings with a large footprint.**

In addition to interior building design, developers are thinking differently about exteriors and how buildings fit into their locations. Especially in city centres and along major corridors where land is more expensive, it is difficult to construct buildings with a large footprint. In such areas, buildings with a mixture of uses like office, retail and residential can integrate well into an existing neighbourhood and allow people to live, work and shop in one spot.

BILD member SmartREIT is working to answer to the GTA's need for more products, services and jobs in urban centres through its new initiative, SmartUrban. As the nation's largest developer and operator of unenclosed shopping centres, the company is evolving from building blocks of commercial retail space to incorporating them into community building projects.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 NORTH YORK

Grand opening: Vida Condos at Bayview Village are new urban condos next to the subway and across from Bayview Village. Check it out at 621 Sheppard Ave. E. in North York, on Oct. 3 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-304-1212, VIDACONDOS.COM

2 SCARBOROUGH

Groundbreaking: Kingston&Co Condos will be celebrating the start of construction at the condo site at 1100 Kingston Rd., in Toronto's east end, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

CONTACT: 647-558-5500, KINGSTONANDCO.CA

3 SCARBOROUGH

Preview opening: SPICE Urban Towns on the Danforth is having their preview event this weekend. Check it out at the presentation centre at 3194 Danforth Ave., on Oct. 3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-932-3443, SPICEONDANFORTH.COM

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LEGAL MATTERS

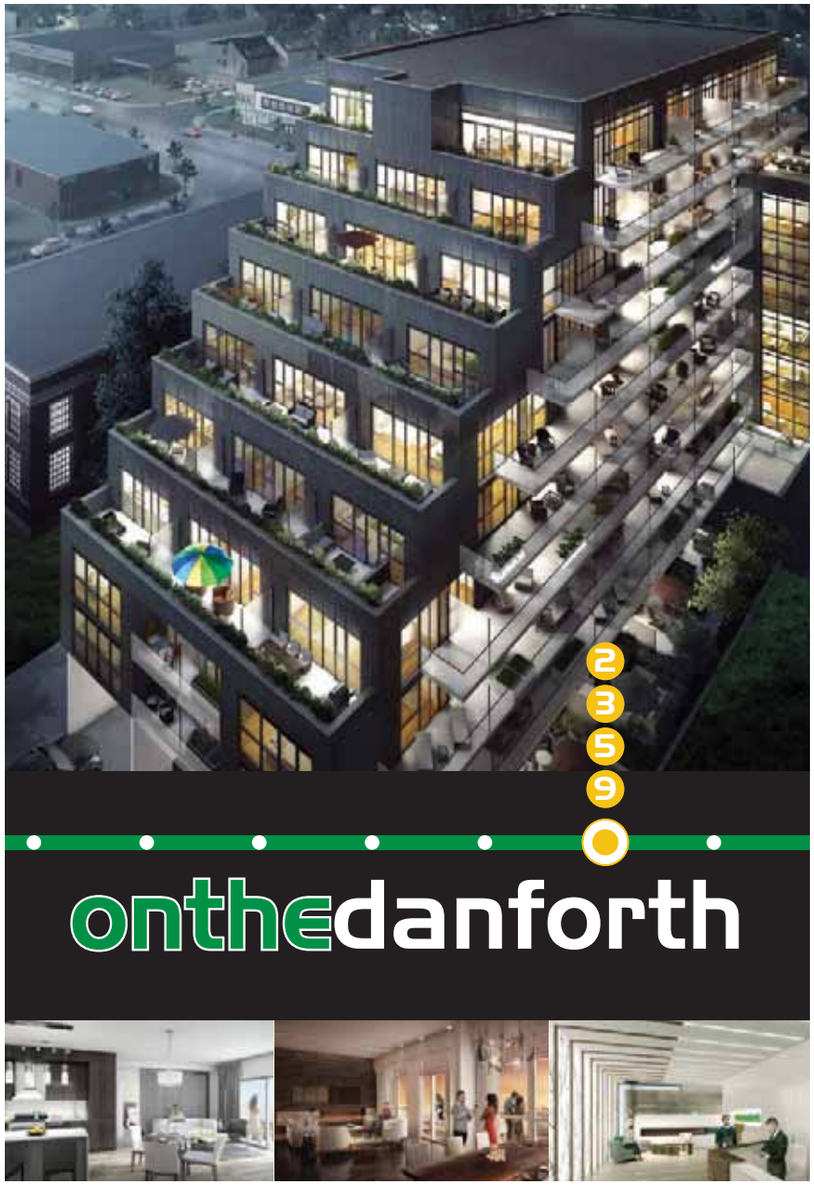
Condo buyer's conundrum when taxes aren't assessed

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: I am purchasing a resale condo that is still fairly new and so the taxes have not been assessed. The seller's lawyer is saying that they have paid $3,800.00 to the builder on account of the taxes to be remitted when the City finally assesses the living unit for property taxes. The sellers are wanting us to credit them this amount but we are hesitant because we don't really have any proof that they paid this amount to the builder or that the builder will pay this to the City when the time comes. What should we do?

A: You raise a good point that happens fairly frequently. It often takes numerous months to assess the taxes on new condo buildings and these new condos frequently change hands within a few months of ownership so that the sellers can realize their profit.

The problem with this situation is that you as a resale purchaser have no connection to the twice-removed builder. A way to handle this is for the seller to indemnify or guarantee that the taxes will be paid once they are informed what that amount would be. It is not the best result but if the seller's lawyer is reluctant to hold back the taxes, this may be the only practical result.



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VILLAGE RESIDENCES

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Calling all shoppers

Project overview

Liberty Development has announced the Village Residences in Bayview Village, a new mixed-use condominium development currently in pre-construction on Sheppard Avenue East in North York, and featuring a 10-storey L-shaped boutique condominium.

Building amenities

The condo offers a golf simulator, a multi-purpose room and an exercise room. There's a common lounge, concierge service and an outdoor amenity terrace. The suites will feature granite or quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, wide-plank laminate flooring and European-styled kitchen cabinets.

Location and transit

The building is located in Bayview Village near three TTC subway stops along Sheppard Ave. The nearby Oriole GO rail station gets commuters to Union Station in less than 30 minutes. Drivers have quick access to highways 401, 404 and the DVP.

In the neighbourhood

For those who love to shop, the condo is located directly across from the Bayview Village Shopping Centre, offering fashion, fine dining, gourmet groceries and retail services. Nearby are Rean Park and Hawkesbury Park, as well as neighbourhood schools, libraries and community centres.

NEED TO KNOW

What: Village Residences
Builder: Liberty Development Corporation
Architect: Wayne Long Architect
Interiors: Tanner Hill Associates Inc.
Location: Bayview and Sheppard avenues
Building: A 10-storey midrise with retail shops at street level
Sizes: From 390 to 1,335 sq. ft.
Pricing: From the low $200,000s
Suites: From studios, all the way up to three bedrooms plus den
Status: Registration and pre-construction phase
Occupancy: April 2018
Sales centre: 591 Sheppard Ave. E., in North York
Phone: 647-622-8408
Website: villageresidences.ca
Email: info@villageresidences.ca

Growing up in tiny spaces

BALANCE

Families join the tiny-house movement

Last year, William and Laura Baird got rid of half of their kids' toys, half of their kitchen's contents and a third of the family's clothes. It wasn't just de-cluttering — they also ditched almost three-quarters of their home's square footage, moving from a three-bedroom house into the 440-square-foot cabin on wheels that they share with their three children, three cats and a hamster.

"I was looking for less to clean," Laura Baird said. "Less upkeep, less impact on the environment, less electricity, less use of resources."

Living with less is the philosophy behind the tiny-house movement — the rising popularity of scaled-down homes, usually less than 500 square feet, some as small as 80 square feet.

Living in these small spaces does mean less responsibility (low prices means many are mortgage-free) but a growing group of tiny-house dwellers are far from rootless vagabonds. Like the Bairds, they're parents with young children.

Laura, a nature educator at a state park, and William, a philosophy professor, have gotten creative to maximize space in their new home, which is parked in a campground in Myrtle Beach, S.C. (they plan to eventually move it to their own land). They've built a fold-out table for family meals, installed bunk beds for their eight-year-old twin daughters and designated their four-year-old son's sleeping loft as the playroom. Laura even ripped out wall panels in the kitchen to build a spice cabinet when she discovered three inches of wasted space.

The family is still trimming down their belongings and settling on where to store things (bulky towels are especially challenging) but the parents like that they spend more time together as a family, and more time outdoors.

"We're figuring out how to compromise more, even if it's just, 'I'm going to the bathroom now and you can go after me,'" Laura Baird said. "It's not as convenient as having a big house where each kid can have their own room, but it's not necessarily a good thing that everything's convenient."

Small-space living with kids in tow means balancing a commitment to minimalism with the realities of family life, said Derek Diedricksen, a tiny-house designer and builder and author of the new Microshelters: 59 Creative Cabins, Tiny Houses, Tree Houses, and Other Small Structures (Storey Publishing).

"Just because you have a space that a kid can sleep in, that's not going to be enough," he said. "You need some common living and breathing and moving space.... It shouldn't be a jigsaw game of Jenga to be able to sit down."

In addition to having a roomy common area, Diedricksen suggests thinking about privacy, including isolating adults' sleeping space and insulating interior walls so everyone can get some peace and quiet. Other tips when designing a tiny family home: Don't skimp on windows — they make a small space feel less claustrophobic — and plan for storage, including offsite space if necessary. Diedricksen recommends storage sheds, which can double as offices or even playrooms in a pinch.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Every room has at least one cat in it.

Eight-year-old Jessica Baird, who lives in a 440-square-foot cabin with her parents, two siblings, three cats and a hamster, on her favourite part of living tiny.

William Baird cooks in his family's cabin on wheels.

The Baird children play outside their cabin on wheels in Myrtle Beach, S.C. ALL PHOTOS LAURA BAIRD VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPONSORED CONTENT

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Add some Spice to your life

Do you want some insider information about the hottest area in Toronto in which to invest?

It isn't north. It isn't south. It isn't west. All indicators point to the area that hugs the Danforth, Toronto's colourful, quirky, eclectic east end. This burgeoning area is quickly becoming the place to live for people who want to be close to the downtown core, but not in it; for people who love the bohemian pull of a community that is gentrifying faster than anywhere else in the city, but with an affordable price tag. The opportunity to buy here is still possible, but experts agree, the time to act is now before demand forces prices up.

The east end is where Spice can serve up a tasty lifestyle infused with all of the ingredients necessary for flavourful living. Hi-Rise West Inc. is building an intimate enclave of one- and two-storey urban townhomes where Danforth Road and Danforth Avenue merge. Offering units from 749 square feet up to 1,029 square feet, these are architecturally precise townhomes are designed to appeal to contemporary sensibilities.

Homes feature soaring nine-foot ceilings, 21st-century layouts including two-bedroom-plus-den models, as well as three-bedroom models, exceptional finishing details, convenient underground parking and beautifully landscaped grounds. Upper units have sun-drenched rooftop terraces designed to maximize alfresco living.

These are condominium homes that provide complete lock-and-leave living; no grounds maintenance, no gardening, no snow shovelling, no worries. They provide the perfect residence for busy people who want to spend their time enjoying their home and neighbourhood, not grooming it.

Close to the Warden and Victoria Park subway stations, the area surrounding Spice has a transit score of 80 (an excellent rating) and a walk score of 79, meaning most errands can be taken care of on foot. It doesn't get much better than that.

The immediate area boasts close to 50 restaurants, cafés, bars and clubs, three parks and three major grocery stores. Spice residents will be able to walk to cool shops and boutiques, schools and day care. Nature lovers will be thrilled with the proximity to the Beaches, the Scarborough Bluffs and the Boardwalk. You can be in the heart of downtown Toronto in less than half an hour, making Spice a commuter's dream location. The area is serviced by 10 bus routes, as well as The Danforth GO Station, which is a fast 15-minute walk away.

If you are ready to add some spice to your life, don't miss the opportunity to become a Spice insider.

Visit SpiceOnDanforth.com to register and you will receive up-to-the-minute VIP information, as well as an invitation to preview these zesty new homes before they are released to the general public.

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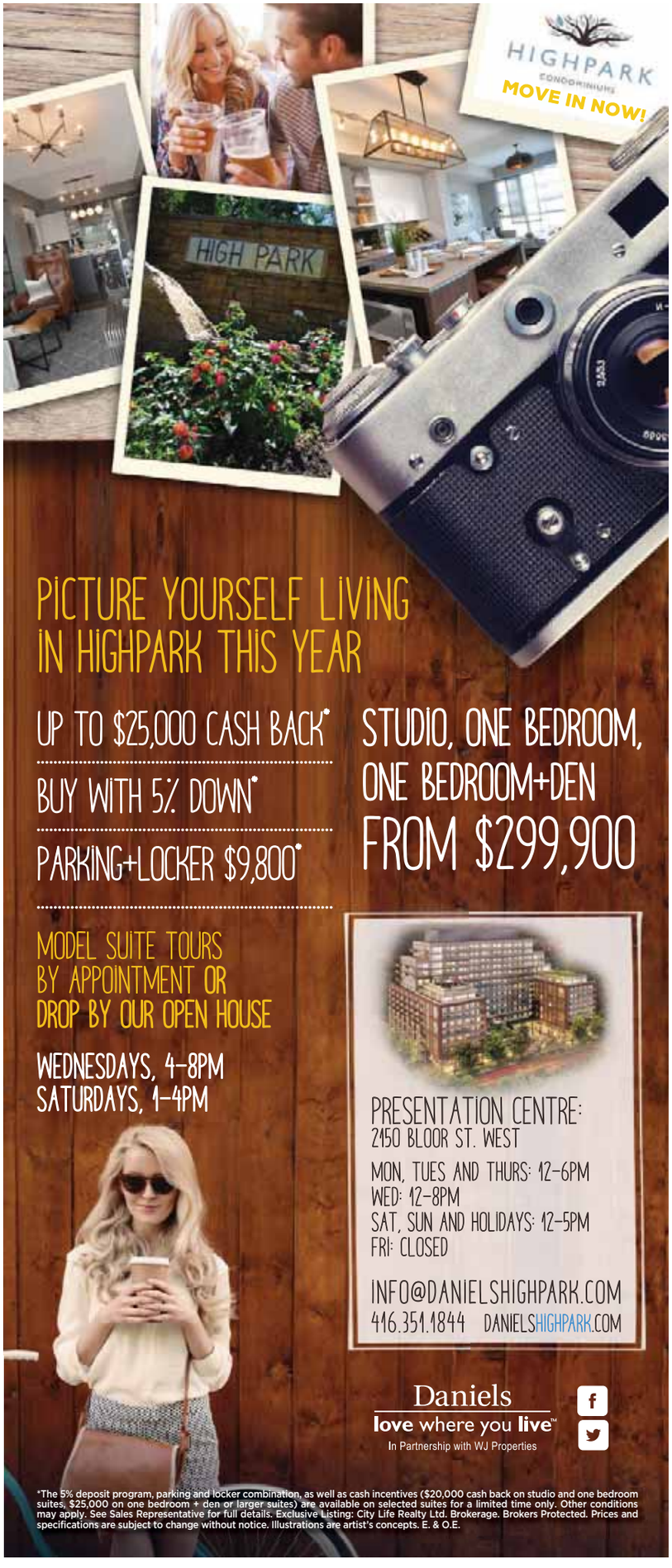
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Fall's hottest home trends

INTERIOR DESIGN

Nature-inspired hues, industrial vintage look come to the fore

If you're looking to update your home decor this fall, you'll find new furniture profiles, accents and textures galore, in everything from rugs to wall coverings to ceramics and bedding.

The trend toward mixing things up continues, from rustic to contemporary with a dash of traditional.

"What's interesting is the warm breath of traditional style that infuses the season's midcentury influence: Furniture, textiles and accessories, no matter how sleek-lined, are warm, inviting and touchable," says New York designer Elaine Griffin.

Also coming on is the handmade or "collected" vibe.

"Our desire for authenticity, as well as for finely crafted and small production design, is resonating," says Jackie Jordan, colour marketing director for the paint manufacturer Sherwin-Williams. "We want to know whose hands actually created the object we're purchasing, and how and where the materials were sourced."

Griffin concurs: "This season, the handmade look reigns supreme, with highly textured fabric weaves, wallpapers (faux bois, faux hand-painted murals, and multicoloured and metallic-layered geometric prints) and appliqué effects on upholstery."

Expect more tabletop accent pieces and furniture labelled with place of origin and/or maker's information, whether they were crafted in Indiana or India.

One new kid in town is Scandinavian style. Simple, clean lines, gentle colours and charming motifs make for a look that's contemporary and accessible.

And the dark horse? With the popularity of midcentury modern, some designers are ready to move forward to a 1980s redux. Decorators have welcomed '60s- and '70s-era macramé, flame stitch, classic furniture and retro fabric prints. Will they also embrace Memphis style — the '80s design movement characterized by disparate geometric shapes and contrasting colours? Griffin thinks there'll be more to this trend come spring.

Paisley is one of fall's most fashionable patterns. POTTERY BARN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colour

Jordan sees a shift "to soft monochromatic palettes," citing creamy whites and mineral tones — grey, khaki, earth tones, and nature-inspired hues like spruce, smoke, pond and shell pink.

"The serenity of these colours provides a sense of calm to balance our hectic lifestyles, and celebrates natural materials (and) honed, soft and sheer finishes," she says.

Stronger hues are in play, too. Griffin sees last spring's pale pastels evolving into deeper, Southwestern hues like terracotta, pale pumpkin, deep salmon, dusty rose citron, and smoky French and teal blues.

Look too for boozy, midcentury modern hues: brandy, burgundy, whiskey and merlot, as well as navy and olive.

Materials

Again, it's all about the mix. "For both furniture and accessories, when it comes to finishes this fall, one is a lonely number," Griffin says. "The freshest looks combine at least two colours and materials, like black lacquer with metallic accents (especially brass and copper); white enamel with gleaming metallic, acrylic pieces in harvest hues; and industrial iron paired with chrome."

Patinated and polished brass, marble, copper, steel and mirror clad everything from accent pieces to furniture. See West Elm, Wisteria and CB2 for examples.

While silver and chrome are big players, Michael Murphy, design and trends producer for Lamps Plus, says brass and gold will be especially strong, especially in softer, burnished tones.

"These metals can be easily

A reclaimed wood coffee table that is part of Pottery Barn's new Bowry collection. Reclaimed wood is an increasingly popular material for furniture. POTTERY BARN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A trim midcentury sofa in one of this fall's trending shades of deep blue. WEST ELM VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

introduced in the home with a table lamp, chandelier or distinct accessory like a large vase or unique table sculpture," he says.

Interesting woods continue to make inroads in furniture, flooring and doors. Watch for acacia, walnut, birch, maple and beech, and finishes ranging from weatherworn to highly lacquered.

Pottery Barn's new Bowry collection of tables and storage units uses reclaimed acacia, teak and mango hardwoods. The Warren pulley lamp's rustic-finished iron and functioning pulleys make for a steampunk-style fixture.

Konekt designer Helena Sultan's Pause chaise lounge perches a comfy upholstered seat on brass or chrome legs, in several finishes.

And saddle and butter-soft leathers are strong players in ottomans, director's and club chairs, and benches.

The flip side is the proliferation of translucents like acrylic and glass, often combined with other materials.

"These materials are being combined with unique fabrics like fur to create a clearly contemporary trend," says Murphy. "We see this where the tops of settees, benches and stools are covered with a luxe fur and fabrics, and the legs are made from clear materials."

Jonathan Adler has a Lucite étagère with polished brass joinery, and a burled wood desk on Lucite legs. Gus Modern's acrylic end table is etched with a white grain pattern to look like a piece of timber.

Pattern and texture

Channel quilting, in which stitching runs in one continuous line, is another trend to watch for. The straight lines, even spacing, design detail and comfort all add to its appeal. "This is part of the continued resurgence of Art Deco, which is synonymous with fluid lines, bold shapes, lavish ornamentation and metallic finishes," says Murphy.

Look for rattan and other woven fibres in items beyond basketry, like wall art, bowls and ottomans.

Shags, nubby wools, Southwest-patterned flat weaves and Impressionist-patterned Indian silks will be on the floor of rug departments this fall. West Elm has some graphic kilim rugs and pillows.

Geometrics and facets cover textiles, vases and mirror frames. Some have an organic quality — think beehives or reptile skin. But rendered in iron or wood, they can have an industrial vibe.

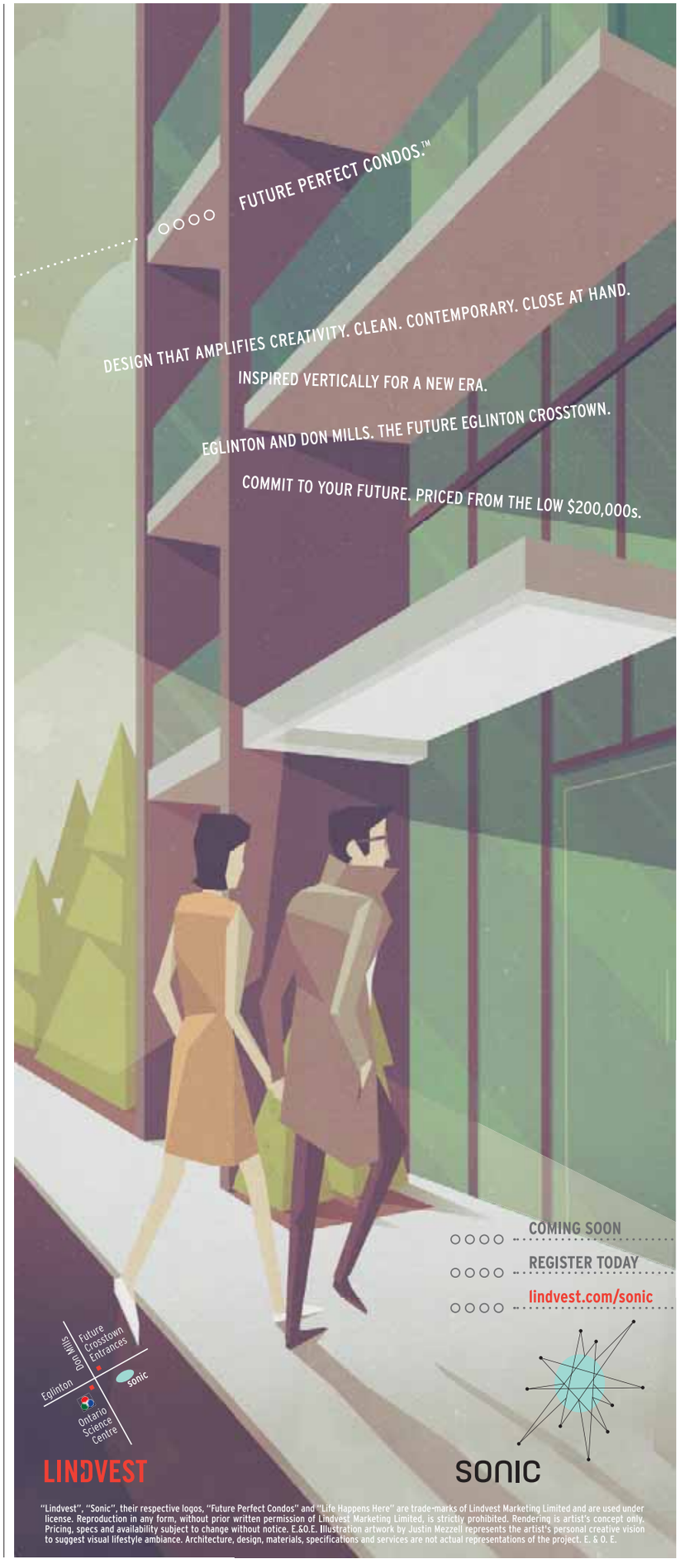
In wallpaper, look to Tempaper, Wolfum and Timorous Beasties for intriguing patterns ranging from '80s Southwest to Japanese archival prints to nature themes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NU-METALS

Jordan says the handmade look extends to metals: "We're seeing materials hand-carved, forged and assembled. Imperfections and flaws in materials like iron, wood, concrete and hand-woven wool only add to the character of the piece."

One interesting place to see this trend is the bathroom: vintage-style, weathered-bronze and cast-iron fixtures. Stone Forest introduced the Ore Vessel sink, inspired by an antique steel pipe cap. The Industrial series, with a cast-iron sink, towel bar and paper holder, has an old-school factory quality.

A new Ore Vessel by Stone Forest. DAVID O. MARLOW /STONE FOREST VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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6 BATH MATS TO ADD STYLISH CUSHION UNDERFOOT

You might not be able to renovate your bathroom into a luxury spa, but you can sure as heck add some whimsy. Here are six fabulous bath mats to help absorb your drips.

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada

1 I Woke Up Like This Bath Mat
Empower yourself every morning. $42, UrbanOutfitters.com

2 Lacoste Memory Foam Bath Mat
Show them your luxurious preppy side. $50, TheBay.com

3 Victorian Whale Bath Mat
Invite this majestic sea creature into your bathroom for a whale of a time. $58, Anthropologie.com

4 Microdry Memory Foam #WASH Bath Mat
Hashtag your bath time for guaranteed popularity. $15, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

5 Marine Anchor Bath Mat
Lure your favourite sailor into the tub for some clean fun. $20, Simons.ca

6 Star Wars Bath Rug
Darth Vader needs to shower too. $35, Sears.ca

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ONTARIO HOME BUILDER OF THE YEAR 2015

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The mistakes homebuyers make

COSTLY

First-time homebuyers can end up investing in a nightmare

Analise Smart
For Metro

Buying a home can be one of the most rewarding decisions you'll make, but make the wrong moves, and you could end up investing in a costly nightmare.

Mike Stewart, a Vancouver-based Realtor®, shares some of the most common mistakes he sees with first-time home buyers.

Not speaking to a lender or mortgage broker first

Stewart says most people wouldn't go shopping without knowing how much money they have in the bank or available credit on their cards, and the same should apply when shopping for a home.

"A lot of first-time homebuyers get out there and say, 'OK, great, my mom says I can get a loan for $700,000. Let's go find a place," he says. "And then they spend all their time, all their family's time, all their Realtor's time, get an accepted offer on a property and after a huge big hassle it turns out they can only afford $200,000."

Talking to a mortgage broker first, he says, will let you know exactly what you're working with.

Research the real estate agent beforehand so you know there's expertise behind that firm handshake. SHUTTERSTOCK

Not hiring a Realtor

Stewart says you should always get a Realtor, who will prevent you from making mistakes like overpaying. "Hiring someone who knows what they're doing and you don't have to pay them — that's worth its weight in gold," he says.

You should also make sure to research the people you will be hiring beforehand.

"The Internet is the most powerful system for doing due diligence on professionals that exists," he says. "If there's nothing on this person, they're probably not very experienced. If there's tons of stuff on this person and it's all positive, chances are you want to work with them. If it says Joe Realtor is a scumbag and he ripped me off, then you don't want to work with that person."

Not getting a home inspection

Getting a home inspection saves you from learning unpleasant truths about your home later. Stewart lists some of the possibilities that may await you should you not heed this advice.

"You buy a house with asbestos, you buy a house with mold, you buy a house that's been renovated without permits and you can't get insurance on it — if you can't get insurance, you can't get a mortgage," he says. "Basically, getting a home inspection will help you avoid buying a money pit."

Flipping versus buying

Real Estate is one of the smartest investments you can make. The long-term trend in Canada is that the value is almost certain to go up — but if you are looking for a quick turnaround, flipping may or may not be right for you.

John Stassen, a designer, contractor, renovator and former host of HGTV's The Big Flip, says buying with the intention of flipping versus a longer-term investment will call for different strategies.

When choosing a home to live in, buyers might be OK with paying a little above market value and won't want major renovations as it is just too disruptive.

Those looking to flip, however, are playing by a different set of rules.

"You're looking for the worst home on the best street, and you can't be afraid of walking away from a deal if the competition drives the price up beyond what your calculations show you can purchase it for," he says. "The most common mistakes made are underestimating the cost of the renovations and overpaying for a property you have chosen as a flip."

Stassen says you also need a lot more working capital for flips, with projects he's worked on ranging from under $30,000 to more than $180,000.

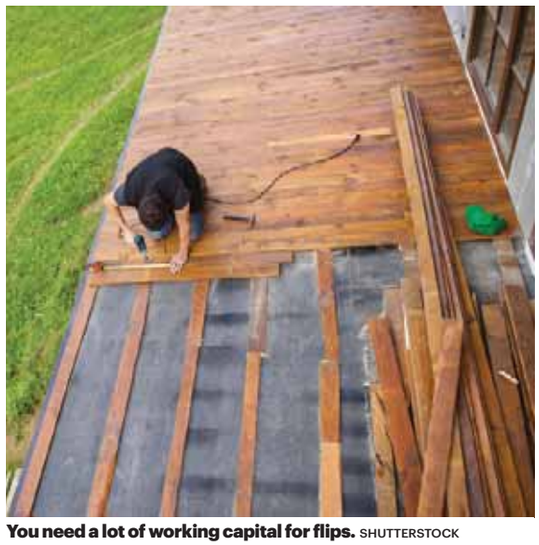
"You will definitely need access to extra cash and/or reasonable rate financing when taking on a project," he says. "While flipping you can go months before seeing your profit on a project and you can't be left struggling to pay your own bills."

Choosing the "right" neighbourhood also becomes more important.

"The joke we had was if the area already has a Starbucks in it you'd missed the boat for flipping," he says. "The key is to find areas that are just beginning to gain popularity."

Stassen says combining traditional home purchasing and flipping can be a great strategy. "If you can afford it the approach of buying a property while residing elsewhere, renovating it then moving in for a year or more before selling can provide the best of both worlds," he says.

ANALISE SMART/FOR METRO



You need a lot of working capital for flips. SHUTTERSTOCK

FROM A BROKER

Lina Porretta, a broker with Forest Hill Real Estate in Toronto, says getting financing to flip a home is not as easy as it would be for your home. "Getting a mortgage for a second property isn't as easy as borrowing for your primary residence," she says. "If you aren't able to secure traditional financing, third party lenders charge premiums." Your taxes may also be different, so Porretta advises speaking with your accountant to understand the tax implications of your purchase.

THE HOOD

How to pick the right location

Location, location, location is the home-hunter's maxim, so how to choose?

Real estate professionals say that what makes something the "right" neighbourhood is as much a personal preference as it is an intrinsic rule.

Ramin Khaze, a sales representative with Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. Brokerage in Toronto, says his advice for choosing the right neighbourhood is the same he would give about choosing the right house.

"They need to keep in mind that there is no perfect neighbourhood just like there is no perfect house," he says. "No matter where you end up you will have to sacrifice something, whether it is the commute to work or a school district for kids, or access to public transportation."

Khaze says homebuyers need to make a list of what they want, with considerations that include everything from budget, to whether they want a new home or an older one, right down to how many bathrooms are needed and what kind of finishes are desired.

Ideally you want to strike the right balance between the home you want and the neighbourhood you want, Khaze says.

"Some clients prefer to sacrifice size and living space to be more in the action …. Other clients would compromise the neighbourhood to have a house where they get what they want in size, bedrooms, land and such," he says. "It goes back what is important to you in a neighbourhood versus what is important to you in a house."

As for concerns about weighing budget against the desire to live in a particular neighbourhood, Khaze says buyers shouldn't stretch themselves too thin.

"I always tell clients to think with their heads and not their hearts, he says. "They may fall in love with a neighbourhood, but they may not end up enjoying it because they have stretched themselves so much financially they can't go out and enjoy it. You want to be comfortable in your new home and new area."

ANALISE SMART/FOR METRO

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Doctors say it's important for young people and the elderly to receive a flu shot to protect them from the flu virus. SHUTTERSTOCK

What do doctors prescribe?

ADVICE

Handwashing, flu shot are best ways to limit spread of viruses

Rhonda Riche
For Metro

With cold and flu season around the corner, Metro checked in with three doctors from across the country to see what steps they take to prevent or treat viruses.

Here is their advice:

DR. PIERRE PLOURDE, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES SPECIALIST, WINNIPEG REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

WHAT STEPS DOES YOUR FAMILY TAKE TO PREVENT COLDS AND INFLUENZA?

"The flu shot, frequent handwashing and plenty of sleep."

WHY IS HAND HYGIENE SO IMPORTANT?

"We touch so many things in a day. And kids more than any other age group share more bodily contact and are more susceptible to viruses. Not everybody who is exposed is going to get sick, but they can still pass it on."

HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE WASH UP?

"You don't have to overdo it. What's important is to wash up before you eat or prepare food and after you use the washroom (or help a little one use the washroom) or arrive home from outside."

IF A FAMILY MEMBER GETS SICK, HOW DO YOU KEEP THE REST OF THE HOUSEHOLD FROM CATCHING A BUG?

"When a child is sick, you're not going to refuse to cuddle them. In our family, we wash our hands the old-fashioned way — with soap and water — whenever possible at home. Proper handwashing is important when you're sick and when you're well — even a well person can pass on germs they've come into contact with. In a busy household, you'd likely want to have hand sanitizer available in high-traffic areas or for when a sink isn't available."

Research shows that vitamin D may help the immune system. Supplements are a good bet during the winter. SHUTTERSTOCK

DR. KAREN WILSON, GENERAL PRACTITIONER, TORONTO

HOW DO YOU PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AGAINST FLU?

"We do handwashing and flu shots. I have two kids, aged 12 and 13. Like most people who get the flu, if they get sick they are only out for a couple of days, but for those with weaker immune systems, like the very young or older people, influenza can be damaging. If you have family members in those groups, you need to get a shot to protect them."

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GETS SICK, HOW DO YOU TREAT THEM?

"Rest. Even if you already have flu, vitamin D may help."

WHAT OTHER STEPS CAN ONE TAKE TO STAY HEALTHY?

"Research shows that vitamin D may help boost the immune system. In summer, many people get at least some of their daily requirement of vitamin D from the sun, but during the winter months, when there's not as much light, you may want to consider getting it from vitamin supplements."

DR. MICHAEL LIBMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE J.D. MACLEAN CENTRE FOR TROPICAL DISEASES AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE

HOW DOES YOUR FAMILY FIGHT OFF COLD AND FLU?

"We're the same as everybody. We get flu shots, practise frequent handwashing. I'd also advise trying not to touch your face. There's no need to get paranoid about your kids getting sick. Being exposed to cold and flu is not a bad thing. As long as young people are relatively healthy, evidence suggests that exposure to these viruses helps children develop some immunity to them."

IF A FAMILY MEMBER GETS SICK, HOW DO YOU KEEP THE REST OF THE HOUSEHOLD FROM CATCHING A BUG?

"I say watch your hygiene. Use disposable tissues to cough or sneeze. It's not just family that you want to protect — don't be brave and try to go into work. When you're sick, you are not particularly efficient. Often, when you're sick, you're not doing your colleagues any favours by making them sick."

ANY TIPS ON SPEEDING UP RECOVERY TIMES?

"Unfortunately, there's no magic bullet. All you can do is rest. Get as comfortable as possible and take something like a pain reliever or decongestant if it makes you feel better."

HANDY TIPS

- How long should you wash your hands? Dr. Pierre Plourde of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority recommends washing for at least 30 seconds, or the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice.
- Hand sanitizers are great, Plourde said. He recommends one with at least a 60 per cent alcohol concentration. For those with sensitivity to alcohol, he suggests a benzalkonium chloride gel.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue, then wash your hands. If you don't have a tissue, use the crook of your elbow. It spreads fewer germs.

RHONDA RICHE/FOR METRO

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PERFORMING ARTS

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Setting the stage for fall performances

Don't miss these incredible performances coming soon to a stage near you.

LA TRAVIATA — CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY (OCT. 8 TO NOV. 6)

Verdi's opera about a high-society courtesan in love shocked audiences and censors at its 1853 world premiere. The story of passion and sacrifice, set in glittering 1850s Paris, features Russian soprano Ekaterina Siurina making her Canadian and role debut as Violetta. For more, visit coc.ca.

AVENUE Q — LOWER OSSINGTON THEATRE (NOV. 12 TO DEC. 6)

The Tony-winning musical comedy returns to Toronto after lengthy runs on Broadway and London's West End. It's an edgy, thinly disguised parody of Sesame Street from the creator of The Book Of Mormon, but not for kids. For more, visit lowerossingtontheatre.com.

THE WINTER'S TALE — NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA (NOV. 14-22)

This adaptation of Shakespeare's classic play by Christopher Wheeldon opened in London last year to rave reviews. Now it comes to Toronto for its North American premiere. For more, visit national.ballet.ca.

THE ROAD TO PARADISE — BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES (NOV. 14-28)

Directed by Christopher Morris, this show is based on interviews conducted with families of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Pakistan Army, and the Taliban to tell three connected stories about love, loss and war. For more information, visit buddiesinbadtimes.com.

JACOB TWO-TWO AND THE HOODED FANG — YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE (NOV. 16 TO DEC. 20)

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the beloved kids book by Mordecai Richler with this adaptation. Filled with suspense, comedy, song and adventure, it features new music and lyrics by young songwriting duo, Britta and Anika Johnson. For more, please visit youngpeoplestheatre.ca

IT'S ELEMENTARY, THEATRE FANS

He has loomed large in the cultural zeitgeist for 100 years, including a huge boom in popularity over the past decade with blockbuster films and hit TV series both here and abroad. Now everyone's favourite detective dons his cap and magnifying glass in a new-to-Toronto production at the Ed Mirvish Theatre from Oct. 27 to Nov. 8.

"The cultural penetration of Sherlock is incredible," says Norman Zagier of Starvox Productions. "There are fan clubs and societies dedicated to Sherlock Holmes all over the world. He's really been a cultural touchstone for so many generations."

The show originally premiered in Montreal in 2013 to critical acclaim, and stops in Toronto on its North American tour, which includes L.A. and Chicago. The Steampunk-heavy iteration was written by late Montreal-based playwright Greg Kramer, who was slated to play the role of Scotland Yard Insp. Lestrade, but passed away the night before rehearsals.

Starring David Arquette in the titular role, the show takes audiences to the gritty back streets of turn-of-the-century London at the end of the opium wars.

"I am beyond excited to play one of the most loved characters in all literature, stage and screen, Sherlock Holmes," Arquette says. "Some may think I'm an odd choice. I am. I'm odd, but thankfully so is he."

For more information and tickets, visit sherlockholmesonstage.com.

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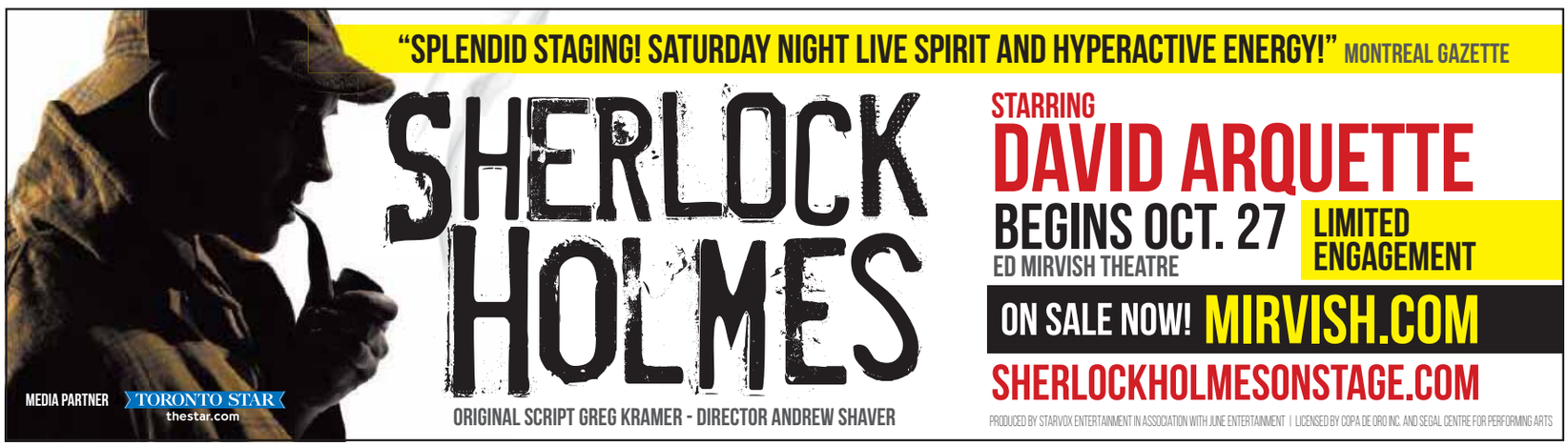
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A BRILLIANT NEW BEAUTY

Sleeping Beauty will get a modern update when Canada's Ballet Jörgen (CJB) takes on the classic fairytale for its 2015-16 season.

"Sleeping Beauty is a beautiful ballet, but not as well-suited for modern audiences because, for example, the original production was two-and-a-half hours long with two intermissions," says Bengt Jörgen, the company's artistic director. "You have to edit and change elements because people view dance so differently today. Audiences will get a dramatically powerful ballet that is fast-paced and stunning."

CBJ's version, which will premiere at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre on Oct. 2, before embarking on a nine-province tour, will take inspiration from Charles Perrault's La Belle au bois dormant and the Brothers Grimm's Little Briar Rose. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaïkovsky's buoyant score will accompany it.

"I would say Sleeping Beauty is the most technically challenging ballet in the ballet repertoire," Jörgen says. "When done right, it's brilliant. It's very pure and clean and difficult, but that's what makes it exciting. The lead couple, who will premiere our production, Saniya Abilmajineva and Daniel Da Silva, make a beautiful pair."

For a listing of Canada's Ballet Jörgen events, including its next major production, The Nutcracker, A Canadian Tradition, visit balletjorgencanada.ca/calendar.

KAMAL DAID PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED

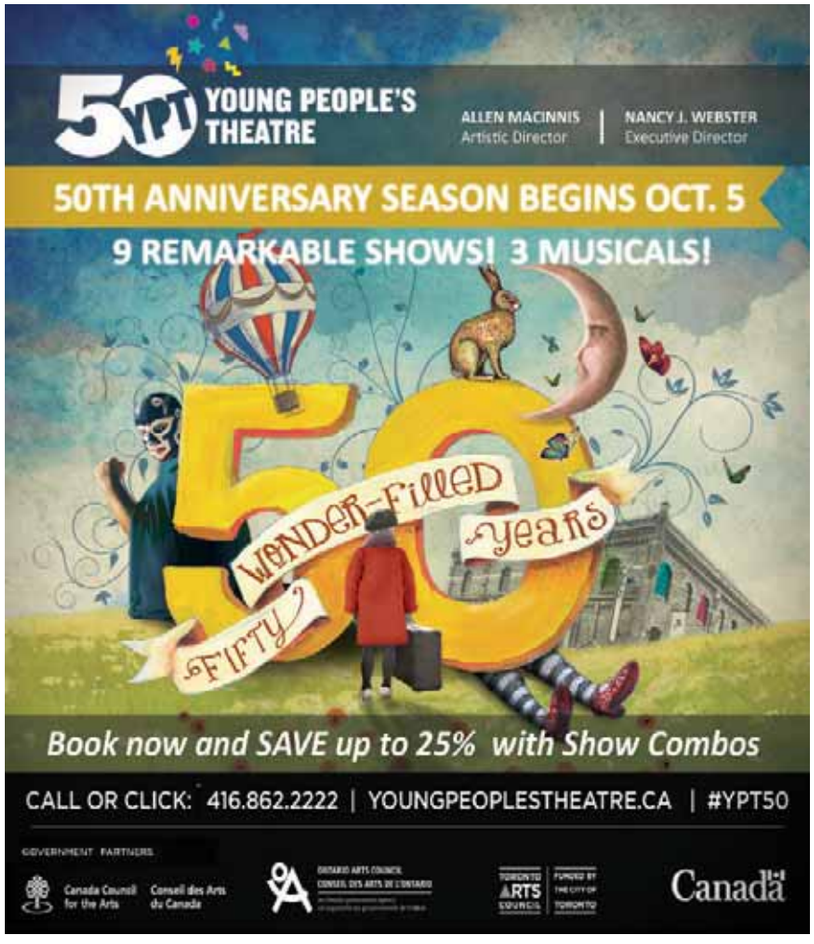
Diverse productions help mark YPT's 50th annivesary

Young People's Theatre (YPT), Canada's largest theatre for young audiences, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Nine remarkably diverse productions will be presented at Toronto's oldest theatre company this season.

YPT is well-known for producing top-quality professional theatre, receiving 44 Dora Awards in its history. But the company does so much more: Theatrical training for children at women's shelters; theatre workshops for newcomers at early learning centres; creative play and storytelling programs at SickKids Hospital; professional development for teachers; and a year-round drama school for children and youth four to 18 years old.

The playbill for this milestone year is marked by the return of beloved audience favourites, reimagined classics and innovative new work. The season opens Oct. 5 with the return of Hana's Suitcase, an extraordinary journey to uncover the true story of a young girl and her fate at the hands of the Nazis. Other highlights include: Jacob Two-Two Meets The Hooded Fang; Goodnight Moon, a musical version of the storybook favourite; and the season closer, a refreshing new take on The Wizard Of Oz.

Over the past five decades, YPT has contributed to the emotional, social and intellectual development of more than five million young people, sparking their imagination and perhaps a lifelong passion for theatre. For more information, call 416-862-2222 or visit youngpeoplestheatre.ca.



Spice up your life at Soulpepper Theatre

Marat Sade is like mixing White Stripes, Tom Waits, Ramones

What do a musical created by the criminally insane about the French revolution, graveyard songs of the departed, and the poems of beloved Canadian icon Dennis Lee have in common?

All appear this fall at Soulpepper Theatre, set to music by composer Mike Ross.

First, there is Marat Sade, running until Oct. 17, a musical about the persecution and assassination of Jean-Paul Marat, as performed by the inmates of the Asylum of Charenton under the direction of the Marquis de Sade.

"It's pretty rich territory," Ross says. "It meant creating music filtered through the eyes of the criminally insane — what music would have they listened to? It expands on a really exciting compendium of styles … it's like White Stripes meets Tom Waits meets the Ramones."

CONTRIBUTED

Nov. 5 sees the return of Spoon River, a Soulpepper original production that was the winner of the 2015 Dora Award for outstanding new musical. Based on the poems of Edgar Lee Masters, the show takes audiences through a graveyard to hear the stories of the dead.

"I was so inspired when I first saw the book, which has a gravestone on every page," Ross says. "It's people coming forward and telling their stories. Some are dark, some are funny, some are drunk, some impart the preciousness of life, some are complaining. Although the show is about death, it's about being alive. I immediately saw it as a chance to explore what it means to be alive in a small town, which is what Toronto feels like to me the longer I live here."

Originally from Charlottetown, Ross moved to Toronto 15 years ago and later joined the Soulpepper Academy, a two-year paid program that trains actors, designers, directors, playwrights, and producers, in its inaugural year. Now, Ross is the Slaight Family director of music at Soulpepper and a performer in many of the shows, including the upcoming Alligator Pie.

Developed with a group of four other program graduates in 2013, the show is a collective creation and celebration that sets the iconic Canadian poems to music, returning to the Soulpepper stage in December.

For more information and tickets, please visit soulpepper.ca.

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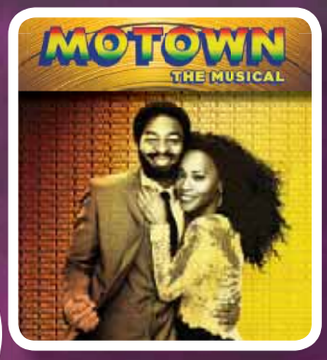

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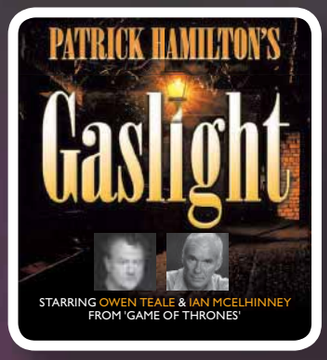

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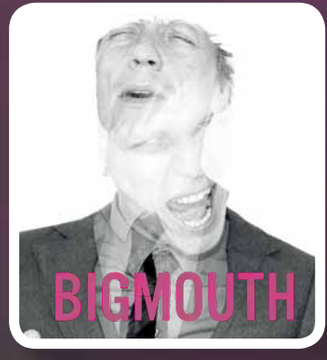
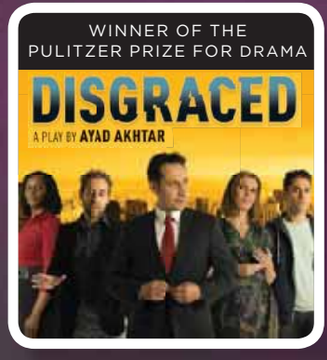
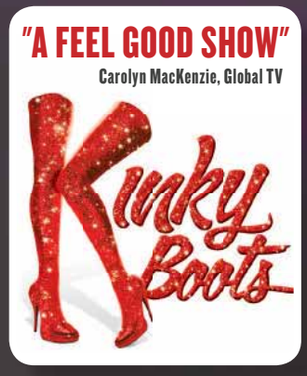


JAN 19–FEB 7, 2016
PANASONIC THEATRE



APR 3–24, 2016
PANASONIC THEATRE

MORE GREAT SHOWS



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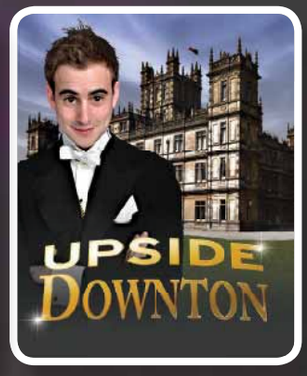

SEPT 30–OCT 18, 2015
PANASONIC THEATRE

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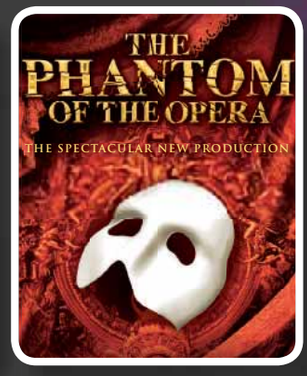
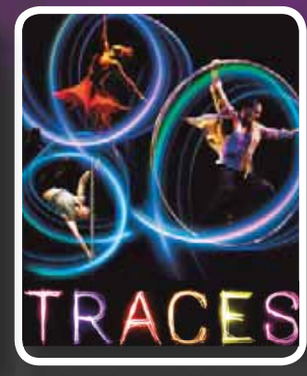
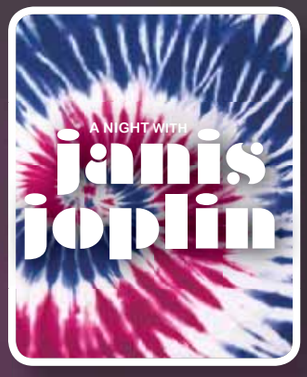


DEC 8, 2015–JAN 23, 2016
PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE



DEC 15–27, 2015
PANASONIC THEATRE



FEB 9–21, 2016
PANASONIC THEATRE

MAR 1–6, 2016
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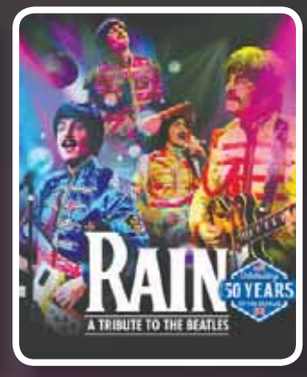

MAR 15–20, 2016
PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE

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MAY 31–JUN 12, 2016
ED MIRVISH THEATRE

Due to the nature of theatre all artists, dates and productions are subject to change.

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Thank you!

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If the boot fits ...

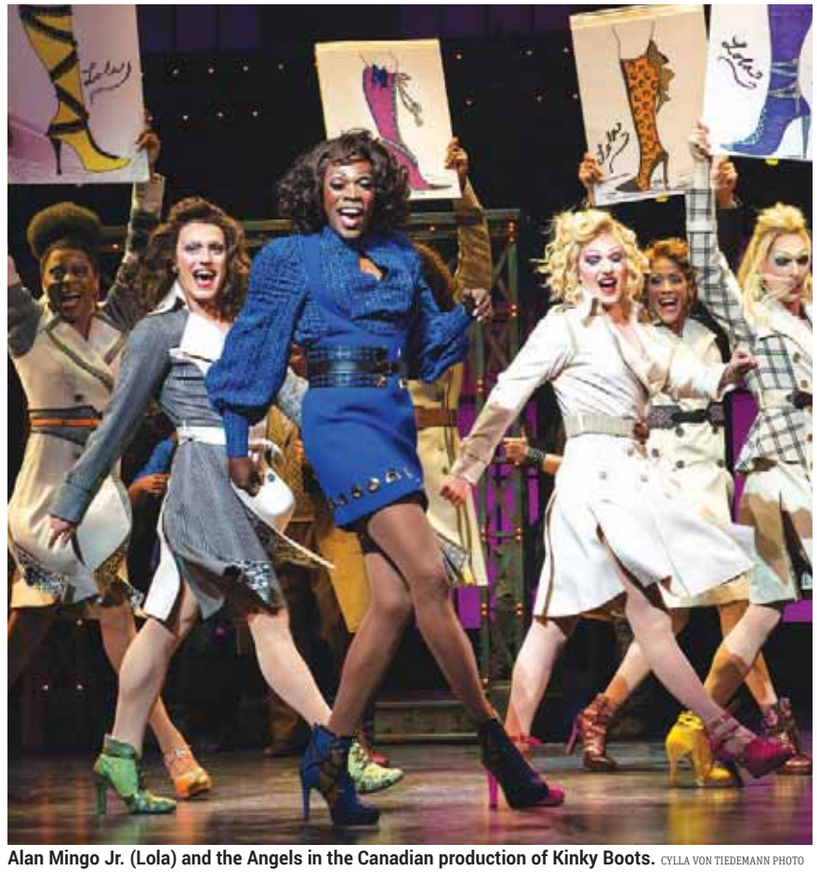
In the popular musical Kinky Boots, Alan Mingo Jr. plays Lola, the drag queen who comes to the rescue of a man who has inherited his father's shoe factory. Mingo Jr. talked about the success of the show, his favourite scene, and how to ease the pain of aching feet.

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE SUCCESS OF THIS PRODUCTION?

I believe the success of this production comes from our brilliant artistic team, with Harvey Fierstein's entertaining and heartfelt story, Cindi Lauper's catchy and soul-filled songs, Jerry Mitchell's dynamic choreography and Gregg Barnes's gorgeous costumes — all of it.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE WHO IS NOT SURE THEY WANT TO SEE THIS PLAY? WHAT'S THE TAKEAWAY FOR AUDIENCE MEMBERS?

The first line my character sings is, "Leave expectations at the door, just let your eyes explore." I would tell them to come with no expectations. I promise they will be surprised at how they feel afterwards. The show is basically about two men who seem very different, but actually have something in common. They begin to learn how to accept each other, which in turn helps them to accept themselves. I hope the audience receives the message in our final song — "Just be who you want to be, never let them tell you who you ought to be."



Alan Mingo Jr. (Lola) and the Angels in the Canadian production of Kinky Boots. CYLLA VON TIEDEMANN PHOTO

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SCENE?

I have many favourites. But my all-time favourite, which seems to be an audience favourite, as well, is the Sex Is In The Heel scene. Don, the burly factory worker, makes a pass at Lola, who he thinks is a woman. It's a classic case of mistaken identity and the audience response can get so loud that sometimes I can't help but chuckle. Their energy feeds me.

HOW DO YOU HANDLE THOSE SHOES?

We had six weeks of rehearsals to get me used to all the costumes and shoes. I have to tell you, I have a new appreciation for woman who wear stiletto heels. To be able to wear them for eight performances a week, I have to ice my feet for 10 to 20 minutes after every performance.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

I have a few projects that are currently being flushed out, but I try to live in the moment. At this moment, I love Lola, I love this production, I love this cast and crew — and I love Toronto.

BUSTED! NO MORE EXCUSES

Going to the theatre sometimes gets a bad rap, but we are here to bust those theatrical misconceptions.

WE DON'T GO TO THE THEATRE BECAUSE WE DON'T LIKE TO GET DRESSED UP

Go ahead and wear what you want. "In general, the world has become a more accepting place," says John Karastamatis, director of communications at Mirvish Productions.

So if you want to wear a gown, do it. And if you want to wear your jeans and running shoes, go for it.

MY KIDS HAVE SHORT ATTENTION SPANS

"One of the fun parts of parenting is being able to expose your children to all kinds of experiences," Karastamatis says.

Why not sign them up for extracurricular activities, read books with them, watch movies and take them to the theatre, too. What child wouldn't love to watch a live performance of Cinderella?

IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE

You can get tickets to some performances for $25, which is less than the price of a daily premium coffee for a week. In fact, theatre tickets make great gifts, since so many people are "consumered out." Why not let them experience a theatre performance instead?

I CAN GET ALL KINDS OF SHOWS ON MY TV, OR EVEN MY COMPUTER

There is no way you can get the same level of engagement by watching something on a tiny screen. "There is just no comparison," Karastamatis says.

Upside Downton is a gentle parody of Downton Abbey. CONTRIBUTED

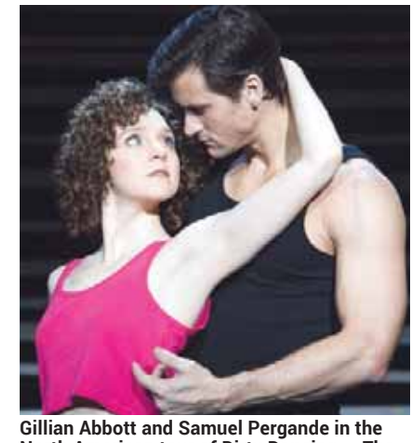
MIX AND MATCH TO YOUR TASTE

With Mirvish Productions offering a plethora of choices this season, how will you decide what you want to see?

Be honest with yourself and start by figuring out what you like to watch on stage. Then it's easy. Just take your pick.

The following tastes should match with an upcoming Mirvish Productions show: Music (Motown); a rock 'n' roll legend (A Night With Janis Joplin); Elvis Presley (Return To Grace); dancing (Dirty Dancing, Riverdance); Downton Abbey (Upside Downton); acrobatic surprises (Traces); a little bit quirky (Matilda); laughing and crying (Kinky Boots); love and betrayal (The Judas Kiss); thinking (If/Then); something different (Traces); psycho thrillers (Gaslight); a fairy tale (Cinderella); reindeer (Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer); brilliant role models (Beauty And The Beast); knock 'em dead shows (A Gentleman's Guide To Love And Murder); big new productions (The Phantom Of The Opera).

A Night With Janis Joplin. CONTRIBUTED



Gillian Abbott and Samuel Pergande in the North American tour of Dirty Dancing — The Classic Story On Stage. MATTHEW MURPHY PHOTO

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Whether you like it dramatic, quirky or funny, Mirvish Productions has a show just for you this season.

With 19 shows between September and July 2016, Mirvish Productions really does have something for everyone this season.

"Every week we need to fill 52,000 seats in our theatres," says John Karastamatis, director of communications at Mirvish Productions. "So we have to appeal to a great number of people — we're not a niche market."

And that's why there is such a wide variety of productions. Take Upside Downton, for instance, a gentle parody of Downton Abbey, in which one man (Luke Kempner) plays about 30 characters.

"If you've never seen Downton Abbey, then you're not going to come and see it," Karastamatis says. "But if you are a fan of the show, then you will really enjoy the production."

On the other hand, Kinky Boots, which opened this past July, does have mass appeal. In a nutshell, two men, seemingly very different, discover they are both having problems living up to their fathers' expectations. The play is all about acceptance.

"Most audience members can identify with not living up to their mother's or father's expectations at some point in their lives," says Alan Mingo Jr., who plays the fabulous Lola in the play.

What is this year's theme?

"The audience," Karastamatis says. "It's a cliché to say that theatre without an audience is not theatre, it's just a rehearsal. And it's a cliché because it is the truth — without the audience there is no theatre, there's nothing."

The cast of the national tour of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. CAROL ROSEGG PHOTO

And the reason that theatre has survived thousands of years is because something special happens when you put together a group of people performing a story and people appreciating it in the same space, he says.

"That exchange of energy between the live performers and the audience is palpable — you can't get that watching a film, a TV show or a video on your computer."

SEASON DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS

Mirvish Productions makes it easy to subscribe to a series of performances. Here are the options: The 2015-16 season is divided into three parts — two subscription series and a myriad shows that are available outside of subscription.

MAIN SUBSCRIPTION SERIES: Seven big shows with broad appeal (five are musicals), including Motown, Cinderella, Gaslight, The Judas Kiss, A Gentleman's Guide To Love And Murder, If/Then, and Matilda. Subscriptions begin at only $174 for all seven shows.

OFF-MIRVISH SERIES: Three shows, which are a little more quirky and a little more challenging — Seminar, Bigmouth and Disgraced. Subscriptions begin at only $99 for all three shows.

ADDITIONAL SHOWS: These shows are not on subscription, and include Upside Downton, Traces, The Phantom Of The Opera, Dirty Dancing, Rain: A Tribute To The Beatles, Riverdance, Beauty And The Beast, and Return To Grace. And don't forget, you can still catch Kinky Boots, which has been extended to Dec. 20.

Unmasking a 'new' Phantom

Quick, what's the world's most popular show? It's a tight competition, but there is one that's timeless — The Phantom Of The Opera.

And now it's coming back to Toronto in a spectacular new production, boasting exciting new special effects, scenic and lighting designs, staging and choreography.

Why mess with something so good?

"People are very protective of Phantom," says Seth Sklar-Heyn, the associate director.

But don't worry, it's still the same fabulous music and just as romantic and hypnotizing as it has always been. And it's certainly not getting any smaller.

"What audiences are seeing is a first-rate production that travels with 20 tractor-trailers and more people than ever before.

"It will absolutely be another massive production, but everything in it is justified, that's what a spectacular production like this one demands. You can't take the melodrama out of the melodrama."

It's a new creation that works at the highest level with classic material, such as Andrew Lloyd Webber's melodies and lyrics, he says.

But it is a fresh take on the show itself.

"You bring in a new director and new people," Sklar-Heyn says. "In terms of casting, we have brought in new actors. Only a couple of them had ever worked on the production before. So they aren't coming with any preconceived ideas or direction — they are inherently open to what is in front of them."

Chris Mann and Katie Travis in The Phantom Of The Opera. MATTHEW MURPHY PHOTO

Is there a chandelier?

"Yes, of course," Sklar-Heyn says. "And again, it's justified as an integral character in the story."

In fact, after touring with the show in the U.K., the chandelier was shipped back to Holland, where Cameron Mackintosh, the producer, worked with engineers to give it more personality.

"Now it really has an attitude," Sklar-Heyn says. "Some nights it really likes to drop in and say, 'Hello.'"

THE BENEFITS OF SUBSCRIBING

Why should you subscribe to a season's worth of theatre shows?

It's all in the benefits, says one long-term theatregoer.

When Kelechi Ejezie Flynn of Brampton attended a corporate event with her employer to watch The Lion King, she had no idea she would get hooked on the theatre.

"It was the beginning of a long addiction," she says with a laugh. "I loved it."

The next show Kelechi saw was Mamma Mia!, which was also a work event. Then she and her cousin started attending a performance every year. Then they started taking in a few shows a year.

"And then we said, 'You know what? It's getting so hard to choose, let's just make the commitment.'"

And that is how Kelechi became a subscriber 12 years ago.

"I've been a subscriber longer than I've been married," she says. "There are so many subscriber benefits."

For Kelechi, though, the best part is never having to choose between shows.

"I get to see all the world-class shows at a discounted price."

OOHS AND AHHS FOR FIREWORKS

PROVIDING A PLATFORM FOR PLAYWRIGHTS

Recruiting a wholly volunteer-run festival and bringing three full-length plays to life on a bare-bones budget hasn't been easy. But for Ramona Baillie, a founding member of Alumnae Theatre, it's well worth it.

Three years ago, the company wanted to create a vehicle for the exciting new works developed at the New Ideas Festival and by the New Play Development group. That's how FireWorks was born.

"We hoped to create a platform to give playwrights the opportunity to refine their scripts with a dramaturge and then proceed with talented directors and designers, culminating in the production of their play," says Baillie, one of last year's playwrights and producer of this year's festival.

For the first two years, FireWorks plays had alternating performance dates, which proved a challenge considering the varied set requirements and time available between productions. This year, each play has its own production week.

"I'm so excited about the quality and diversity of the three plays we're offering our audience this year," Baillie says. "One, Divine Wrecks by Chloe Whitehorn, is about a high school god who falls for his teacher. The second, Cottage Radio by Taylor Marie Graham, explores the effects of the horrific Goderich 2011 tornado on a family. And then we have Radical by Charles Hayter. It's the story of a forgotten Canadian hero, Dr. Vera Peters, who fought to alter use of the radical mastectomy to treat breast cancer. "

This year, the festival has expanded its Behind The Curtain experience with a Sunday playwright's talk-back, which offers insight into the evolution of their script. Also, after every show the audience will have an opportunity to learn about how the play evolved from script to stage, including everything from sets and costumes to lighting and sound design.

The FireWorks Festival runs at The Alumnae Theatre from Nov. 4-22. Also, catch George F. Walker's dark original comedy Escape From Happiness at the Alumnae Theatre until Oct. 11.

For more, visit alumnaetheatre.com.

Natalie Kulesza, left, Glenda Romano, and Jillian Welsh in Burying Toni by Catherine Frid. DAHLIA KATZ PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED

A heavier take on Christmas

It may seem at first like an odd pairing, but Twisted Sister Dee Snider's love of St. Nick runs deep.

"He projects this image of a debauched '80s headbanger," says Norman Zagier of Starvox Entertainment. "But the fact is Dee Snider is this totally wholesome guy who's been married for 39 years, has four kids, and whose biggest passion is Christmas."

Snider's love of Christmas spectaculars was ignited by a childhood visit with his grandparents to Radio City Music Hall to see the Rockettes perform their annual special. Bringing his own children to the show decades later made him realize that the genre was in desperate need of an update.

Now he has created his very own musical. Dee Snider's Rock & Roll Christmas Tale tells the story of a heavy metal band, Däisy Cütter, trying to make their musical dreams come true. Enter a deal with the devil and a (losing) battle with the Christmas spirit.

While it's not a show for kids, per se, it's tame enough to bring your family along — Snider is, after all, a grandfather now.

"This is the perfect chance for the guy who grew up with '80s rock to introduce his hip-hop loving teen and show him what music was all about when he was a kid," Zagier says.

Catch Dee Snider's Rock & Roll Christmas Tale at the Winter Garden Theatre Nov. 17 to Jan. 3. For tickets and more information, please visit rocknrollxmas.com.

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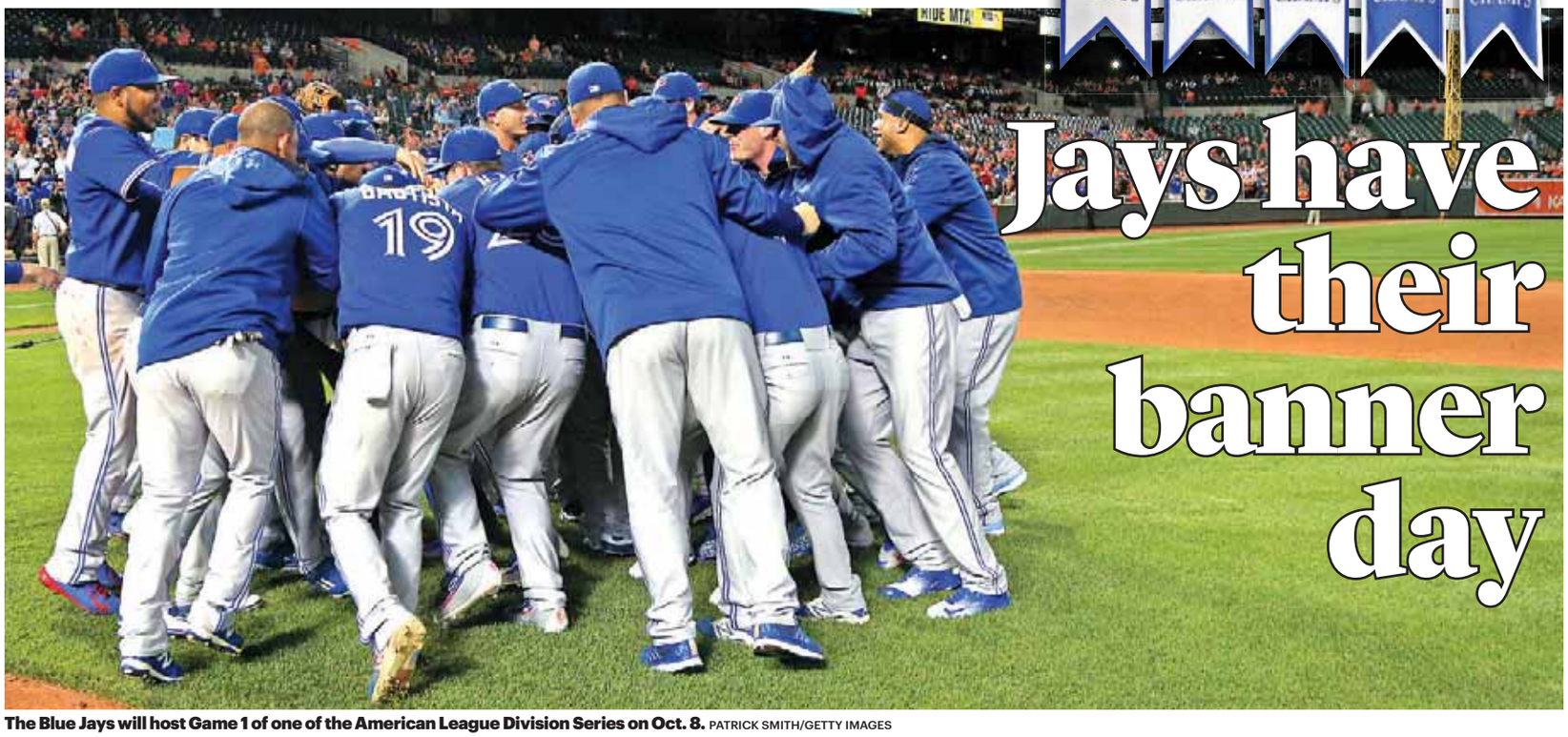
Toronto clinched its fifth AL East title on Sept. 27, 1993

Jays have their banner day



The Blue Jays will host Game 1 of one of the American League Division Series on Oct. 8. PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Party begins fashionably late in Baltimore

Buckets of champagne were ready, just sitting in the visiting clubhouse at Camden Yards. The Toronto Blue Jays celebrated clinching the American League East on the field but had to wait to complete a doubleheader before popping bottles.

The franchise waited 22 years for this. What were another few hours?

Two months of spectacular baseball culminated in a 15-2 rout of the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday afternoon, ending decades of frustration for fans and rewarding the Blue Jays' organization for a remarkable turnaround.

"I wake up every day with a huge grin on my face. I wake up every day and it doesn't feel real," pitcher Marcus Stroman said. "Taking the field every day with Josh Donaldson, Troy Tulowitzki, David Price, Mark Buehrle, it's nuts to me."

The Blue Jays, who fell 8-1 in the second game of the doubleheader, were nuts to watch for much of the season but more specifically since July 29, when Tulowitzki joined the lineup amid a flurry of bountiful deadline trades. They went 42-15 since, surging past the New York Yankees before finally wrapping up the division in the first game of a doubleheader against the Orioles.

The pennant is Toronto's first since 1993, when it won its second of back-to-back World Series titles. It assures the Blue Jays a spot in the five-game AL Division Series rather than the uncertainty of a one-game wild-card playoff, which they had already clinched last weekend.

"It's been a really long time since this city has been to the playoffs, so to do it for the City of Toronto and to do it with this group of guys, it's been a dream come true," Stroman said.

In late July, any kind of postseason appearance would have been welcomed, before general manager Alex Anthopoulos went all-in, trading for an ace in Price, an all-star shortstop in Tulowitzki, a speedy outfielder in Ben Revere and bullpen help in relievers LaTroy Hawkins and Mark Lowe at the deadline.

Those moves worked like a charm, making the Blue Jays' 50-51 record in late July feel like a distant memory. Winning the division seemed inevitable in recent days as the Yankees struggled and the Blue Jays kept rolling.

The final victory of that accomplishment came Wednesday with young stud Stroman on the mound in just his fourth start of the season following a torn ACL in spring training. Stroman (4-0) was masterful yet again, striking out eight and allowing just one run on five hits in eight innings.

In typical Blue Jays fashion, the most productive lineup in baseball led the way by tormenting opposing pitching. Jose Bautista, Edwin Encarnacion and Justin Smoak each hit home runs, and every player in the lineup registered a hit, including Ryan Goins, who registered a career-high five.

This division title also came with the guarantee of home-field advantage in the ALDS. The Blue Jays will either play host to the AL West champions — the Texas Rangers, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim or Houston Astros — or the wild-card team at Rogers Centre for Game 1 on Oct. 8.

Home-field throughout the playoffs is within reach, too. The Blue Jays' magic number to earn the top seed in the AL is three — any combination of victories and Kansas City Royals losses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **I think home field (advantage) for us with the environment that we have now at that stadium ... We'd love to get it.**
> General manager Alex Anthopoulos

TIMELINE

The Blue Jays' journey to winning the division title began a year ago. Here are some pivotal moments within that span:

Nov. 1, 2014 — The Jays trade longtime first baseman/designated hitter Adam Lind to the Milwaukee Brewers for right-handed pitcher Marco Estrada.

Nov. 18, 2014 — The Jays sign three-time all-star catcher Russell Martin, a native of Toronto.

Nov. 28, 2014 — The Jays trade Canadian third baseman Brett Lawrie and prospects to the Oakland Athletics for third baseman Josh Donaldson.

Josh Donaldson
GETTY IMAGES

March 10, 2015 — Marcus Stroman, who was supposed to be Toronto's 24-year-old ace, tears the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during fielding practice and is expected to be out for the season.

July 12, 2015 — Toronto goes into the all-star break 45-46.

July 28, 2015 — In a blockbuster deal with the Colorado Rockies, the Blue Jays get shortstop Troy Tulowitzki and reliever LaTroy Hawkins.

July 30, 2015 — The trade bonanza hits its apex as the Blue Jays acquire pending free-agent ace David Price from the Detroit Tigers.

Aug. 12, 2015 — The 10th victory of an 11-game winning streak, coupled with a Yankees loss, puts the Blue Jays in first place in the AL East by a half-game.

Aug. 23, 2015 — A rout of the Angels wraps up a three-game sweep in Anaheim as the Blue Jays get back into first place.

Sept. 12, 2015 — Stroman makes his triumphant season debut and is impressive as the Blue Jays sweep a Yankee Stadium doubleheader to move 4-1/2 games up.

Schooled the Wright way

NBA TRAINING CAMP

Raps' top pick learns from the best — his big brother

The basketball is going to take care of itself for Delon Wright.

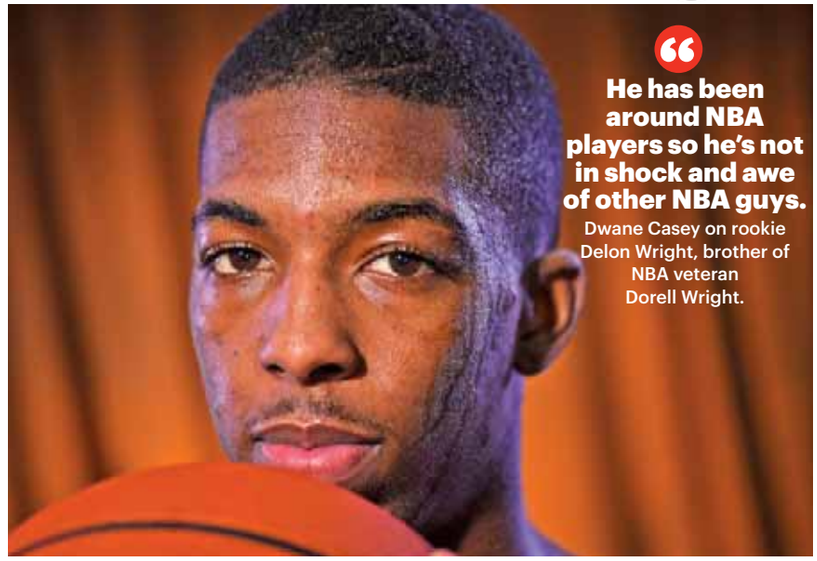
He is big and strong and full of so much potential that decision-makers around the Raptors are genuinely excited about what the future holds for the 2015 first-round draft pick.

It is the life that will present its issues; the money and the fame and people who want a piece of all of it; the users and the takers who always seem to find their way next to kids just starting out.

It's gotten to others so often it's not funny, the immature teens who can't handle the fame nor the cash nor the responsibility thrust upon them.

Wright has a leg up in that regard — a wiser older brother who has been through it and thrived, an NBA veteran who knows all the pitfalls.

And Dorell Wright made sure his little brother is prepared for what awaits him.


He has been around NBA players so he's not in shock and awe of other NBA guys.
Dwane Casey on rookie Delon Wright, brother of NBA veteran Dorell Wright.

The Toronto Raptors took point guard Delon Wright 20th in June's NBA draft.
JESSE D. GARRABRANT/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

In a heartfelt and personal open lettered on the athlete-focused website theplayerstribune.com, Dorell Wright warned his 22-year-old sibling about the dangers that await and cautioned him against falling prey to them.

Dorell talked about avoiding the omnipresent distractions and people who want a piece of a rich, talented young man; he advised against joining the team card game on charters; he talked about the hard work necessary to make it in the NBA.

Life stuff. Important stuff.

"He told me what to expect, how to carry myself. On the court he just lets me do what I do out there," Delon Wright said. "But be smart with the decisions I make, think things through and not just act."

A four-year American collegian, Wright does have a bit more basketball experience than the teens who are generally high first-round draft picks. It's allowed him to stand out early in training camp and infuse Raptors coach Dwane Casey with enthusiasm.

"He has seen it all and on top of that being the brother of an NBA player, he's heard and seen it all," Casey said. "He has been around NBA players so he's not in shock and awe of other NBA guys. This is not overwhelming to him. His temperament is unbelievable

"He is ahead of the game by being four years older and having Dorell as his brother and being around NBA players all this time."

That savvy could allow the Raptors to accelerate Wright's contribution. Toronto is already set with Kyle Lowry as the starting point guard and Cory Joseph as his backup, but Casey can see playing two of the three at the same time. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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NHL PRE-SEASON

Leafs yet to settle No. 1 goalie debate

Mike Babcock can talk about structure. Players can talk about learning to be hard on the puck. The Maple Leafs can all buy into a new system. Somebody can emerge magically to score all the goals that Phil Kessel once did.

It will all go for naught if the Toronto Maple Leafs can't get any goaltending.

Jonathan Bernier and James Reimer are back with the Maple Leafs again this year, each professing how they want to be the No. 1 goalie.

Babcock has said he wants a clear-cut No. 1 — the only time he'll talk to his No. 1 goalie is to inform him when he's not playing. Babcock doesn't want the headaches and sleepless nights that come from having shared starters.

He might want to get out the Advil. So far through training camp, it's a pick 'em.

"Just one more run at it to get ready," said Reimer. "It's always good to get as much playing time as you can, but one more game would be nice to iron out the last of the kinks that are left in the system."

Reimer and Bernier are each expected to get one of the starts — Friday in Detroit, and Saturday at home to the Red Wings — in last-chance auditions for the job.

Jonathan Bernier is the likely Leafs opening-night starter.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Saturday that's the game you really got to put your foot down and focus and make sure you're ready for the first game," said Bernier.

The Laval, Que., native has been the No. 1 for the past two seasons — though not by that wide a margin — and he has a contract through the 2016-17 season, so the smart money is on him starting the regular season Wednesday at home to Montreal.

Reimer is a free agent at the end of the season and may have more to play for.

So far through camp, Reimer has been a tad better. He has played 127 minutes over three games, allowing five goals. That's good for a 2.36 goals-against average and a .917 save percentage.

Bernier has played 149 minutes over three games, allowing nine goals (3.62 GAA, .885 save percentage). TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Eberle out at least a month

The Edmonton Oilers announced Wednesday that forward Jordan Eberle will miss four to six weeks with a shoulder injury.

Eberle left Tuesday night's game against Arizona in the first period following a collision against the wall behind the Coyotes net.

He did not return.

"I went to the bench because I knew something was wrong right away," Eberle said Wednesday at the Oilers' skate. "Better to happen now than later in the season." THE CANADIAN PRESS

131%

Even before the start of the NHL regular season, the addition of No. 1 draft pick Connor McDavid has seen the Oilers' ticket sales climb 131 per cent compared to last year on the secondary market, according to StubHub.com.

Grey Cup BMO Field-bound, source says

The CFL's championship game will be played in Toronto next year.

BMO Field will host the 2016 Grey Cup, a source has told The Canadian Press.

The CFL is expected to make the official announcement at a news conference Thursday afternoon at a downtown hotel.

The Argonauts will move to BMO Field in 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Junior chooses Canada

David (Junior) Hoilett has committed to play for Canada.

The 25-year-old midfielder from Brampton plays his club soccer for Queens Park Rangers in England's second tier. But his international future has been a question mark until now.

"I can't wait to play, put on the Canada jersey for the first time, and help the team achieve better things and progress as a nation," Hoilett said in a video interview provided by the Canadian Soccer Association.

David Hoilet
GETTY IMAGES FILE

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ronaldo's a Real history-maker

Cristiano Ronaldo in his familiar celebratory pose after scoring his 500th career goal. ANDERS WIKLUND/TT VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Phenomenal Portuguese equals Raul's benchmark

Cristiano Ronaldo surpassed the 500-goal mark and Real Madrid hailed him as the club's all-time leading scorer on Wednesday.

Ronaldo scored his 500th- and 501st goal — in a two-nil away win at Swedish outfit Malmo — equaling Raul's mark of 323 goals according to the Spanish club, which counts a goal that has officially been awarded to Pepe. UEFA said the players are still level at 323.

"I'm very happy," Ronaldo said after a game in which he scored in the 29th and 90th minutes. "First of all because the team won. But I won't lie to you. I really wanted to beat Raul's record."

The Portuguese forward took his Champions League record tally to 82 goals, five more than Lionel Messi. Here is a look at all of Wednesday's Champions League matches:

Group A

Ronaldo's brace ensured Real Madrid kept its share of the Group A lead, along with Paris Saint-Germain.

PSG eased to a 3-0 win at Shakhtar after defender Serge Aurier scored a goal and set up another. The Ivory Coast right back headed in PSG's opener in the seventh minute and served up a corner kick for David Luiz to make it 2-0 in the 23rd.

A Darijo Srna own goal in the 90th completed the victory.

Group B

All four Group B teams are now level on three points after Manchester United defeated Wolfsburg 2-1 in England and CSKA Moscow edged PSV Eindhoven 3-2 at home. Juan Mata scored one goal and set up another as United rallied to win its first group match.

Daniel Caligiuri put Wolfsburg ahead after four minutes, but Mata won and converted a penalty to equalize before half-time and Chris Smalling slotted the ball past Diego Benaglio to seal the win in the 53rd. In Russia, Seydou Doumbia scored twice as CSKA held off a second-half comeback to beat PSV 3-2.

Group C

Benfica moved into a comfortable position atop Group C with the surprise 2-1 win at Atletico Madrid, opening a three-point advantage after two matches.

Benfica has six points and Atletico has three, while Galatasaray and Astana, which drew 2-2 in Kazakhstan earlier Wednesday, have one point each.

There were three own goals in the match in Kazakhstan, including Astana's 89th-minute equalizer. It was the first game in the main stages of the Champions League to be held in the Asian nation of Kazakhstan, which has been considered part of Europe for football purposes since 2002.

Group D

Juventus and Manchester City cast aside their domestic woes to pick up important wins.

Juventus stayed ahead in Group D by defeating Sevilla 2-0 in Italy, while City's first victory came at Borussia Moenchengladbach. Manchester City moved level with Sevilla after Sergio Aguero scored a last-minute penalty to help the English side snatch a 2-1 victory in Germany.

Aguero was fouled in the 89th and sent 'Gladbach keeper Yann Sommer the wrong way to secure the win. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESULTS

GROUP A
Malmo 0-2 Real Madrid
Shakhtar Donetsk 0-3 PSG
GROUP B
CSKA Moscow 3-2 PSV
Man United 2-1 Wolfsburg
GROUP C
Astana 2-2 Galatasaray
Atletico Mad. 1-2 Benfica
GROUP D
M'gladbach 1-2 Man City
Juventus 2-0 Sevilla

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RECIPE Mushroom Barley Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Whip up a pot of this simple, earthy soup and have leftovers for lunch the next day.

Ready in
Prep time: 25 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 or 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 medium carrots, peeled, diced
- 2 stalks of celery diced
- 1 lb of cremini mushrooms, brushed clean and sliced
- 2 Tbsp fresh thyme (less if using dried)
- 3/4 cup of pearl barley
- 5 cups of stock (vegetable, chicken or beef all work)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. In a large pot or Dutch oven warm up the olive oil over medium heat. Add your vegetables and thyme and allow to soften for about 3 to 5 minutes.
2. Add the barley and give it a good stir to coat it. Now pour the stock over and allow soup to simmer for about 20 minutes until the barley is tender but still chewy. Taste to check seasoning.

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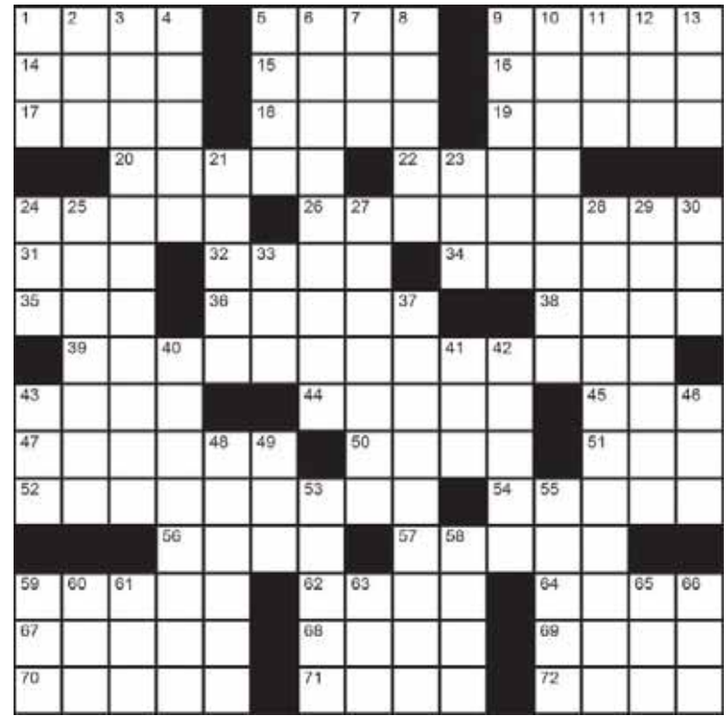
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Icelandic myth story
5. Frolic
9. Sunday song
14. Momentarily
15. Iris spot in the eye
16. Western movie
17. Saloon slurp
18. Darned
19. Small songbirds
20. More kind
22. Art for #23-Down
24. Tim Hortons _ (Curling championship)
26. Car trunk item: 2 wds.
31. So far
32. University for 2016 Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton
34. TV teasers
35. Spring month, briefly
36. Ironed pants line
38. Canadian composer Mr. MacDermot
39. Moose Jaw's nickname: 2 wds.
43. Nickname of Montreal's 1976 Summer Games stadium: wd. + letter
44. Kangaroo jacket feature
45. Passports, e.g.
47. Nose, slang-style
50. Expanse
51. Mesh
52. Launches an attack on the castle
54. Like linen-making fibre
56. Old currency
57. Harped on
59. Ancient language
62. Pad _ (Noodle dish)
64. Farm sound effect
67. Aristocracy
68. Dog playthings
69. Bygone time
70. Carries out the commands
71. Highlands tongue
72. Forensic IDs

DOWN
1. Twisty turn
2. _ Jones Industrial Average
3. "_' _ _": Hit by #9-Down that continues "...on the wrong side of town!"
4. Rolling Stones classic
5. Sly tactic
6. Don't respond to the alarm clock
7. Kitten cry
8. "Kung Fu _" (2008)
9. As per #3-Down... The _ Blues (Band from Vancouver)
10. _ Springs (New York state racetrack locale)
11. Corroded
12. Mr. Kravitz, for short
13. Simon & Garfunkel's "_. Robinson"
21. Creepy chamber
23. Alsatian artist Jean
24. _ _ landslide
25. Painting like the real painting
27. Fall fashion classic: 2 wds.
28. Cloud of creativity
29. Contacts index on a classic office desk
30. "C'_ la vie!"
33. "_ My Children"
37. Week parts each week
40. Relationship to the keynote in music
41. Frost
42. Fray
43. Graduate's degree, e.g.
46. Swine spot
48. Supposes
49. Switzerland's largest city [abbr.]
53. Frothy-topped hot beverage
55. Andrew Webber link
58. Smart
59. Horoscope roarer
60. Vatican vestment
61. Affiliation
63. Vertical opp.
65. Firearms org. in The States
66. "Star Trek: Voyager" role

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your imagination is so powerful there is a danger you could let your fears get out of hand. There are two ways to deal with your current dilemma: either do something about it or act as if it does not exist.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Someone will go out of their way for you today, which makes you suspicious. What are they after? What's in it for them? The question you should be asking is: why can't I just accept that some people are nice by nature?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
What occurs today will help you see things in perspective. It will also remind you that life is too short to waste on things that don't matter.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You may be under the impression that you can say anything to anyone and get away with it but don't be so sure. You seem to be under divine protection but it could rapidly be withdrawn.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You ought to make it up to someone you've been neglecting. That's fine but don't be too generous — what others want most is your attention, they don't care about cash.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be hugely responsive to other people's moods but you need to take care that their negative feelings don't start having a negative effect on you. Erect an emotional wall.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Some things are best left in the realms of fantasy. Having a dream is one thing but what if, when it comes true, you find it is really a nightmare? Stick to reality, it's safer.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You won't lack for compassion today but you may lack for common sense. Don't let others fool you into thinking that you are doing the right thing, when in fact the real right thing is to leave well alone.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try to impress, especially people who can help with your ambitions, but don't go too far and claim you can deliver results that are really way beyond you. Even a Sag has limits.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't let rivals undermine your confidence today, especially on the work front where a setback has already put a dent in your morale. You will soon be moving up again.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try not to let others know too much about what you are doing. Knowledge is power and the more knowledge you give away the less power you have for yourself.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Relationships will generally go well today but be wary of anyone whose attitude towards you goes from one extreme to the other in a matter of minutes. It could be they are trying to confuse you for their own benefit.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

2				9				3
	5						2	
			4		1			
		9	2		7	4		
1				8				9
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3				6				1

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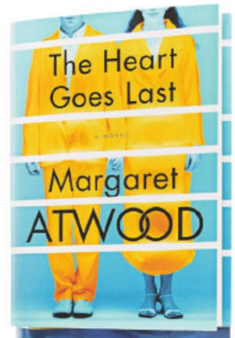

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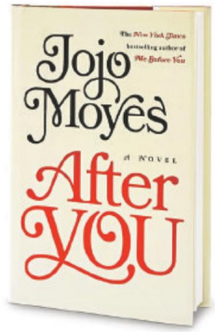

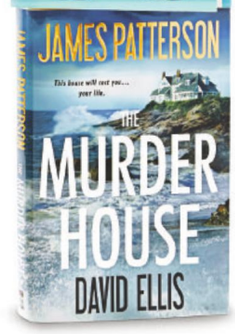

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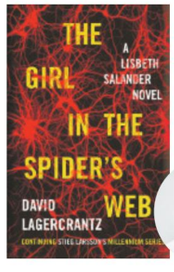

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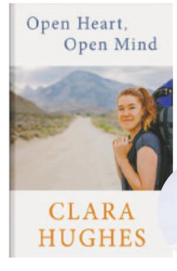

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